Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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'Secret' NATO Deal Signed With Mediterranean States

MM0206152495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi: "Secret Agreement To Create Two Rapid Deployment Divisions for the Mediterranean"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Noordwijk — AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a secret agreement has been signed between NATO and five Middle Eastern states to establish a Nato-Middle East security partnership, the first of its kind. The five states are Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, and Israel.

Informed sources in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, where the NATO ministerial council is continuing its meetings, said that ministers from the five states would hold a joint meeting with the NATO foreign ministers next October to define the basis for their joint cooperation.

According to the same sources, NATO will propose to the Mediterranean side the formation of two joint divisions for rapid deployment in the Mediterranean basin region.

The sources added that the meeting will be known as the 16+5. This is a result of the Noordwijk meetings most of which were devoted to discussion of the future of the security dialogue initiated by NATO Secretary General Willy Claes with the five states.

The sources also say that there is an inclination to exclude Algerian from the security partnership for the time being and to ask the Western European Union — the European Union's military wing — to open a peripheral dialogue with it. [passage omitted]

According to the daily the other countries are Egypt, Mauritania, Tunisia and Israel. The daily also said that the foreign ministers of the five Mediterranean countries will hold a meeting next October with their peers from NATO members to set the bases of their cooperation.

Rabat Denies Alleged 'Secret' Accord

LD0206133295 Rabat MAP in English 1316 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, June 2 (MAP) — Morocco denied Thursday [1 June] press reports alleging that the kingdom had concluded a secret Mediterranean security partnership accord with NATO.

A reliable source from the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation told MAP 'the Kingdom of Morocco did not participate in the conclusion of any secret accord between NATO and five Mediterranean countries'.

ASHARQ AL-AWSAT daily reported Thursday that a secret accord on a Mediterranean security partnership was concluded in Noordwijk, Netherlands, between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and five Mediterranean countries, including Morocco.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Oman, Yemen Submit Border Accord to Arab League

NC0406161495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today sent two written messages to Omani Sultan His Majesty Qabus Bin-Sa'id and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He expressed his happiness and appreciation because the demarcation of the border between Oman and Yemen has been completed. He added that this is an example to be followed in resolving border differences between Arab countries.

Oman and Yemen have deposited a copy of the border agreement concluded between the two countries with the Arab League.

Iraq Envoy Meets With Arab League Chief

JN0406181095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met here today with Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

They discussed the current Arab developments, the threats and challenges facing the Arab nation, and the ideal methods to face these imposed challenges and achieve Arab solidarity.

They also discussed latest developments regarding Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council and the positive international positions that demand the United Nations to implement Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, which stipulates an end to the oil embargo imposed on Iraq.

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Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Executive Committee Talks, Reaction

PLO's Ghawshah on 1 Jul Deadline

JN0206134795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1055 GMT 2 Jun 95

[Interview with Samir Ghawshah, PLO Executive Committee member, in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio, on 2 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ghawshah] The PLO Executive Committee has reviewed Palestinian activities and the meetings and visits of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to a number of Arab countries. In addition, it reviewed the negotiations. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, who attended part of the session, briefed us on the negotiating rounds in various spheres. The PLO Executive Committee also studied the Palestinian situation, including the dialogue among the various Palestinian factions, in addition to the economic situation. Through this review, we concentrated on several issues prior to adopting concrete measures and future policies.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, was there a legal quorum for the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee? What was the general approach regarding the future of the negotiations and the steps that should be taken?

[Ghawshah] The meeting was attended by most of the PLO Executive Committee members. There was a legal quorum in accordance with what had been agreed on in the previous meetings. In this context, the PLO Executive Committee raised the issue of the 1 July deadline and the Israeli position, as well as the indications given by the negotiating rounds and Israel's readiness to take practical, direct measures that would advance the peace process. The major question was: What are the possibilities and signs that the 1 July deadline would be met to advance the peace process?

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, have you adopted a specific decision in case the 1 July deadline was not honored?

[Ghawshah] So far, we are still studying the issue. Today, we will resume the meetings and in light of this we will adopt the appropriate decisions and attitudes.

Further on Ghawshah Remarks

NC0206150795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During their meeting in Tunis last night under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee members expressed their great appreciation for Egypt's efforts in support of the Palestinian cause at all international fora and on all levels. Stating this to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, PLO Executive Committee member Dr. Samir Ghawshah said that the Executive Committee members stressed that Egypt's supportive role of the Palestinian cause gives momentum to Egyptian-Palestinian relations and enhances cooperation and joint action to serve the Arab issues, primarily the Palestinian issue.

Ghawshah said that during the four-hour meeting 'Arafat briefed the Executive Committee members on the results of his latest contacts with a number of Arab leaders, including President Husni Mubarak, and his recent meeting in Rabat with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Dr. Ghawshah stressed that the Executive Committee meetings assume special significance in view of the important issues it is facing. He noted that they also reviewed the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, assessed the ongoing negotiating process, and examined all aspects of the domestic Palestinian situation. He pointed out that a work plan and program will be worked out to cope with the next stage, particularly the 1 July date. He said that during June the Palestinian and Israeli parties will hold intensive negotiations. He noted that 1 July will be a decisive date as it will give indications that will influence the peace process. He said that either serious steps are taken to boost the peace process or both sides will reach a deadlock and a real impasse in the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Co-Sponsors To Act

LD0306095695 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of its meetings in Tunis last night, the PLO Executive Committee called on the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process — the United States and Russia — to speed up their action so as to guarantee the commitments Israel signed with the PLO.

Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the information minister in the Palestinian National Authority, made a press statement at the end of the two-day meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, which was held in Tunis under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the committee considers the period until 1 July as the last chance for political action, because a failure to respect that deadline would have dangerous complications and consequences. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that the executive committee has decided to speed up the negotiations with Israel so as to reach an agreement which would extend the Palestinian self-rule on 1 July.

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He added that the committee stressed the need to include in the agreement the expansion of self-rule and the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the Palestinian towns and villages in the occupied West Bank before the election of the self-rule council. That election was scheduled for July 1994 in the timetable contained in the declaration of principles signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington in September 1993.

The Fatah Central Committee, the largest PLO faction, which held meetings in Tunis during the past two days, decided to continue the negotiations with Israel until 1 July next. It has been learned from a Palestinian source close to the meeting that the Fatah Central Committee discussed during its session the Jerusalem issue, the policy of expansion and settlement of the Israeli Government in the holy City, and the internal situation of the movement and its future in building national institutions and participating in the expected Palestinian elections.

Qaddumi Calls For Resuming 'Intifadah'

NC0306053595 Paris AFP in English 0316 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tunis, June 3 (AFP)—A leading Palestinian official called Saturday [3 June] for the intifadah, or uprising, in the Israeli-occupied territories to resume, accusing Israel of not wanting peace.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department in Tunis and a critic of PLO head Yasir 'Arafat, said at a press conference, "The intifadah must resume and the Palestinian people must be encouraged to resist, because Israel is not seeking peace and has no credibility."

He said that a two-day meeting of the PLO executive, which ended early Saturday, had discussed alternatives to negotiations on the grounds that the talks on Palestinian autonomy had been "long and fruitless."

"Political action is no longer enough," Qaddumi said, reiterating his view that the talks should be suspended.

The PLO decided at its meeting to step up the pace of negotiations with Israel in order to reach a settlement before the July 1 deadline, a PLO spokesman said.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information "minister" in the Palestinian authority, warned that it was the last chance for the peace process, as failure to respect the time limit would have very dangerous consequences.

The intifadah, launched in December 1987, ended with the initial September 1993 autonomy agreement. It had resulted in the death of some 1,331 Palestinians and 300 Israeli troops and civilians.

Israel again pledged last Sunday to reach an accord by July 1, but negotiations on the next phase of self-rule, including an Israeli army redeployment away from Palestinian towns in the West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections, appear deadlocked.

'Text' of Executive Committee Statement

JN0306135795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0913 GMT 3 Jun 95

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee following meetings in Tunis on 2 June—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Executive Committee held its meetings in Tunis on 1-2 June 1995 under their chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO Executive Committee discussed a number of important and major issues related to the national destiny, particularly in light of the Israeli plans to isolate holy Jerusalem, its land, people, and sanctities; and to continue its expansionist and settlement activities in the West Bank, as well as the attempts to obstruct the implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], particularly regarding issues related to the Israeli Army redeployment outside the populated areas, the conduction of comprehensive elections, the transfer of powers, and other economic, administrative, and security issues which Israel is still obstructing or procrastinating in implementing so as to increase the Palestinian people's suffering and difficulties and to maintain an atmosphere of tension which leads to serious reactions. The PLO Executive Committee has made the following decisions:

1. Rejection of all the Israeli attempts to obstruct the implementation of the DOP and the other agreements and obligations, which would lead to the collapse of the peace process, something which will negatively effect the situation in the entire region. The PLO believes that abidance by the Israeli Army's withdrawal from all the populated areas in the West Bank in order to enable the Palestinian people to conduct free and comprehensive elections under the control of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the friendly supervision on the set agreed date is essential to the political process. The PLO views with extreme seriousness the Israeli procrastination and the ideas which are sometimes proposed to circumvent the need for withdrawal from all the populated areas, something which will affect the conduction of the elections. Proceeding from this, the PLO calls on the cosponsors and all the international forces to take action to prevent the collapse of the peace process, and the Israeli obstructions and procrastination. The PLO has decided to move on all the local, Arab, and international levels with the objective of making the Israeli Government

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fulfill its commitments to redeployment at the end of this month and to holding the elections.

2. The PLO stresses that the essence of the DOP, and the Israeli and U.S. commitments, including the U.S. letter of assurances before and during the peace process completely contradict with any settlement and expansionist activity in Jerusalem and the other Palestinian areas. The PLO believes that the continuation of this activity, regardless of Israel's claims and pretexts, will create a very negative atmosphere. Our people, with all their forces and groups, our Arab nation, and all Muslims and Christians, will not accept that the usurpation of territories, violation of Islamic and Christian holy places, and the Judaization of Jerusalem continue under the peace process.

The PLO urges our people with all their forces to do all they can to confront the settlement activity and land confiscations. The PLO calls for a comprehensive national conference to discuss ways of protecting the national destiny and Palestinian territory and of resuming the joint march toward repatriation, independence, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The PLO expresses great appreciation for the stance of the Arab League Ministerial Council and all sisterly Arab countries in defense of Jerusalem and its holy places and in supporting the Palestinian people to help them attain their national legitimate rights. The PLO appreciates the stands and roles of their majesties and excellencies the kings and presidents of Arab states. It appreciates their support for the cause of Jerusalem, defending its holy places, and rejecting the policy of Judaization, expansion, and settlement. The PLO appreciates their unified support for our people's rights stemming from the importance of holy Jerusalem to everyone. Therefore, the PLO stresses that the convocation of an Arab summit remains a required objective in light of the continued dangers of settlement expansion, the obstruction of the peace process, and in order to restore Arab solidarity and safeguard pan- Arab security and the Palestinian and Arab rights.

3. The PLO addressed a number of important administrative and organizational issues, including the enhancement of the Palestinian embassies' work and role on Arab and international levels. The need to maintain those embassies has been stressed, since they constitute the Palestinian people's window to the world and one of their important militant tools. The PLO stressed the need for the PA to continue its tasks and issue the required laws, regulations, and legislations to ensure the rights of citizens, forces, and political forces. The PLO expressed appreciation for the role of the Palestinian and brotherly Arab entrepreneurs in supporting the march of Palestinian struggle and construction.

PA Options If Deadline Not Met Reported

JN0306201495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian circles in Cairo are showing interest in the resolutions adopted by the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee during their recent two-day meetings in Tunis. Informed Palestinian sources told us that the meetings focused on Palestinian policy to be pursued if Israel does not honor the 1 July deadline to redeploy its forces in the West Bank and begin preparations for the Palestinian legislative council elections.

Among the alternatives the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA] may adopt in this regard, the sources said, is to decide to return to the United States and Russia, cosponsors of the peace process, and compel them shoulder responsibility for Israel's refusal to abide by the peace process and the consequences the Palestinian arena will face if the peace process collapses. The meetings also proposed a return to the United Nations as the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is an international agreement, and called for arbitration between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to assess each side's commitment to the peace process. One of the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement stipulates such an arbitration.

Among the steps the NA will also take if Israel does not abide by the set date is to activate the popular forces inside the occupied territories to prevent the collapse of peace. Israeli movements and parties supporting the peace process such as the Meritz party, the Peace Now Movement, the Arab Democratic Party, and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality—the latter two are members of the Labor Party coalition and forced Israel to suspend its decision to confiscate land in East Jerusalem by threatening to withdraw their confidence in the Labor Party government—will also be asked to protect the Palestinian-Israeli peace process in one way of another.

These sources added that the Palestinian National Authority will ask the Arab countries to stop normalization with Israel and to change their strategy during the multilateral negotiations.

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Prospects for Meeting 1 Jul Date Analyzed

NC0406163895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 4 Jun (MENA)—As the 1 July date set by the Israeli side to sign an agreement to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO approaches, nothing yet has appeared to assure the Palestinian side about the seriousness of the Israeli commitment.

A Palestinian source told MENA's correspondent in Gaza that meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli committees are continuing to prepare for the second phase of the agreement and discuss elections.

He said the committees are discussing three main issues: the Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank, security arrangements, and elections, noting that none of the committees' work has come to a conclusion.

The Palestinian source pointed out that, immediately upon his return to Gaza from Tunis yesterday, that President Yasir 'Arafat was anxious to follow up the work of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating committee. He said 'Arafat met last night with Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of religious affairs in the Palestinian Authority, and briefed him on the details of negotiations with the Israeli side, but al-Tarifi refused to comment on the progress of these committees.

People close to President 'Arafat, whether advisers or ministers, have expressed doubts about reaching an agreement on 1 July satisfactory to the Palestinian side. They said: "Experience with Israel has accustomed us not to trust what they say or promise."

It can be said that the Palestinians are right in their doubts about the likelihood of reaching an agreement by 1 July. The Israeli media have leaked reports to confirm these doubts or to probe the Palestinian side's reaction. Two days ago, the HA'ARETZ said arrangements within the Israeli army indicate that the Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank will not take place before four months, that is, in November. Israeli television reported that negotiations are now taking place between 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Palestinian official in charge of the security side of the talks, and Uri Dayan for Israel to agree on the handover of Janin. It said there are differences over the city, as Israel wants to hand it over as a city while the Palestinians want to take it as a region not a city and to link it with the Jericho region so that they will form one geographical area.

The Palestinian side has devised two plans to tackle these developments. The first is to continue the negotiations if the Israeli side adheres to the accords and implements the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. The second is to invite the Palestinian institutions once again to adopt a decision to halt the negotiations and carry out moves at Arab, Islamic, and world level similar to the move that led to the suspension of decisions confiscating Arab land in Jerusalem. In other words, to call again for an Arab summit, for halting normalization with Israel, and for inciting Arab parties and political forces inside Israel against the Rabin government.

The second plan also calls for stimulating the Palestinian opposition and stirring up tension again, especially because the Palestinians' economic and psychological mood might further increase the tension if Israel does not adhere to its agreements and if the situation in the West Bank is left unchanged. Israel has no new security pretexts now that the Palestinian Authority managed in the past weeks to control the security situation as affirmed by a U.S. State Department report.

Some people here believe that Israel might be committed to signing the agreement on 1 July but then the problem will be about the context of this agreement and whether it will be satisfactory to the Palestinians, as well as about the timetable of implementing such an agreement.

Justice Minister: Israel 'Not Serious' About Talks

JN0306175195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Interview with Palestinian Minister of Justice Furayh Abu-Middayn by Hasan Abu-Zayid; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Begin recording] [Abu-Middayn] I believe things will not proceed smoothly because the Israeli elections year is approaching and because Israel is planning to freeze matters by holding meetings rather than negotiations. What is taking place are meetings rather than serious negotiations on redeployment and elections in the West Bank. The redeployment is a purely Israeli concept. Israel wants to fragment the West Bank. The redeployment will not be carried out over a specific area of land. Rather, it will affect only certain residential areas. This Israeli proposal is very dangerous. I do not believe the Palestinians will agree to it. Therefore, next July will see a big crisis and a big question mark for both sides.

[Abu-Zayid] What prevents an agreement or a completion of the negotiations by 1 July?

[Abu-Middayn] Israel is not serious about the whole peace process. Its views on the West Bank and its understanding of the Oslo agreements differ much from those of the Palestinian side. It wants to place the

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Palestinian population in isolated areas under the control of the Palestinian National Authority. This will not be accepted by the Palestinians. This is the reason behind the current crisis, which will exacerbate in the future.

[Abu-Zayid] How will this affect the situation in the self- rule area and the future of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Abu-Middayn] It will certainly affect them negatively because the entire peace process will lose its credibility. This will be used as proof by those who oppose the peace process. They will say: "You have tried but facts on the ground are taking place in accordance with Israel's wishes." This will endanger the entire peace process. [end recording]

PFLP, DFLP Launch 'Joint Command'

JN0306141895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Joint Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the Gaza Strip has underscored the importance of national unity, saying that it is essential for the building of a civilized Palestinian society.

At a news conference held by PFLP and DFLP representatives at the premises of the Arab Journalists Association in Gaza, the PFLP and DFLP announced the launch of the Joint Command in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

DFLP Central Committee member Jawdat Swirki said that work is under way to form a preparatory committee for a general democratic structure. He urged a general national dialogue to promote the Palestinian people's interests.

PFLP official Yunus al-Jaru stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He demanded the convocation of the Palestine National Council to assess all political developments. Meanwhile, DFLP Central Committee member 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Jayab indicated that an official dialogue is taking place between the PFLP and DFLP on the one hand, and the National Authority on the other. He hoped that positive results would emerge from this dialogue. He appealed to all political forces to work to promote the prosperity of the Palestinian people.

A political statement issued by the Joint Command of the PFLP and DFLP asserted that the Israeli Government is attempting to obliterate our people's national identity, undermine their unity, and renounce their right to repatriation, self-determination, and independent statehood. The statement, which stressed that Jerusalem must be the capital of an independent Palestinian state, denounced the Israeli policies aimed at Judaizing the holy city and confiscating land there. The statement announced that the people's unity must be safeguarded, and that internecine fighting among the Palestinian factions must remain taboo.

The Joint Command of the PFLP and DFLP noted that the building of a civilized democratic society should be accorded top priority, just as the accomplishment of national tasks.

PFLP, DFLP Call For 'End to Peace Process'

NC0306120595 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 3 (AFP)— The unified leadership of two large PLO factions opposed to Yasir 'Arafat called Saturday [3 June] for an immediate halt to Palestinian negotiations with Israel.

The leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called for resistance to Israeli occupation and an end to the peace process.

Their demand followed warnings by prominent Palestinian negotiators at a PLO executive committee meeting in Tunis on Friday that the peace process was in danger of collapse unless Israel met a July 1 deadline on agreeing the second phase of autonomy in the West Bank.

The PFLP and the DFLP did not attend the meeting, having suspended their membership of the executive committee after the 1993 Declaration of Principles that led to the Israeli-Palestinian self- rule agreement last May.

The two parties joined ranks about a year ago, and have their headquarters in Damascus, Syria.

'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Jayab, a member of the DFLP's central committee told AFP that the call for a halt to the negotiations followed talks among all Palestinian parties, including Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction.

"We are asking for an immediate halt in negotiations with Israel, and I believe there are many others who have also hinted at that in Tunis," he added.

A statement by the unified leadership called for "a national dialogue to draw up a new vision for a political solution based on international legitimacy."

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it also stressed support for the "national independence struggle against the Zionist occupation."

DFLP Official Urges Halt to Talks With Israel

JN0306162495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1113 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Jawdat Swirki, member of the DFLP Central Committee in Gaza, by unidentified correspondent—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Good afternoon, Jawdat.

[Swirki] Good afternoon.

[Correspondent] Today's meeting was aimed at uniting the commands of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. We congratulate you on this national unity. Is there a future action plan?

[Swirki] Thank you brothers at the Jericho Voice of Palestine. The commands of the DFLP and the PFLP in the Gaza Strip have unified as a result of both fronts' efforts to promote our people's national struggle, safeguard their national unity, and attain their full national rights. The unified command of the two fronts is struggling on several axes to form a democratic framework to oppose the Oslo agreement and struggling on all fronts to safeguard our people's rights, avert the dangers of internecine fighting, safeguard our people's national unity, and enhance national dialogue within the framework of the political forces that are dealing with current political issues and the living conditions of our people. The national dialogue in which we are effectively engaged is not an alternative to the required national political dialogue. The unified command urges a halt to the negotiations in order to open the door wide to national political dialogue among all forces, regain the unity of the PLO, ensure our people's rights, start negotiations in light of the Palestinian national principles and the resolutions of the international legitimacy, maintain our people's struggle for an Israeli withdrawal from every inch of our occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and to realize our people's full and inalienable right to repatriation, self- determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

[Correspondent] Do you want the leadership to return to Tunis after the negotiations are halted?

[Swirki] There is no doubt that we are with any achievement serving the struggle of our Palestinian people. We do not want to give the impression that we want to move matters backward. We believe that halting the negotiations and starting a comprehensive national dialogue to work out the bases of real negotiations will safeguard our people's national interests, rights, achievements, and unity.

[Correspondent] Jawdat, you have been observing all that is taking place.

[Swirki] The DFLP has always been at the heart of the PLO and national struggle. We are now holding a national dialogue in the Gaza Strip to save our people from the dangers of internecine fighting, explore all difficulties facing our people, and restore unity in the PLO ranks. We believe these efforts indicate that we are working effectively instead of just watching events. Everybody should be ready for dialogue and should respect opposition and political pluralism, of which we have been proud within the framework of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our militant people.

[Correspondent] But new developments and facts are occurring, while you are still being influenced by the pre-Oslo situation.

[Swirki] The masses of our people know that the DFLP is among the open-minded forces. We are against any bias and any intransigence. Events have proved the soundness of our understanding of the Oslo agreement and its expected applications on the ground. We do not say this out of a desire to gloat over others' mishaps. We hope that what is taking place on the ground will serve our people's interests, even if they contradict our front's vision, because our people's national interests are above any fractional consideration. Therefore, everybody should consider the higher national interests instead of sticking to the vision of a certain supportive or opposing organization. The higher national interests, as well as facts on the ground, should prompt the different masses of our people to work to halt the negotiations and then resume them on new bases through a comprehensive national dialogue. Our front does not insist on our position. Rather, we believe that opposition and political pluralism are a basis for arriving at a joint position and safeguarding national unity. There is no alternative to dialogue because it is the language of the age and will meet the national interests and safeguard our people's national unity. [passage omitted]

'Arafat To Receive Kohl 7 Jun, Christopher 9 Jun

JN0306153595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will receive German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Jericho on 7 June. Talks will deal with latest developments of the peace process in the region and the obstacles Israel is creating in the way of the peace process.

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He will also receive U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 9 June.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived in Cairo last night in the course of a Middle East tour during which he will visit Jordan, Palestine, and Israel.

Adviser on Kohl, Christopher Visits

JN0406093395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jun 95 pp 32, 26

[Report by Kamal Zakarinah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media adviser to chairman of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] [Yasir 'Arafat], has said that during their meetings in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee have decided to accelerate negotiations with Israel until 1 July, which was considered a deadline for reaching an agreement on Palestinian elections and the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank.

In a telephone contact with AL-DUSTUR from Gaza, Abu-Rudaynah said that President Yasir 'Arafat's tours of Jordan, Egypt, and Morocco were assessed during the meetings.

He hinted that the PLO might adopt a new position toward negotiations if Israel failed to comply with the 1 July deadline. He called on the peace process cosponsors to shoulder their responsibilities vis-a-vis peace in the region.

Regarding President Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Jericho within the next few days, he said that the two leaders will discuss bilateral relations. He added that the Palestinian side will call on Germany to play a high-profile role in the current peace process in the region and to contribute to building the Palestinian infrastructure. He noted that the German Government extends aid to Palestinians through the European Union.

Concerning President 'Arafat's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher scheduled for 9 June, Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinian side will call on the United States to play a more active role to preserve the peace process, if it was really interested in the success of negotiations for a comprehensive peace. He stated that Israel's failure to implement the agreements it had signed will precipitate considerable hazards that will have bearing on the Middle East and the world.

He said: The United States has a special role to play in salvaging the peace process. The Palestinian side is still committed to the agreements it had signed. Thus the peace sponsor should bring pressure to bear on Israel to respect the peace process and impalement the agreements it had signed.

In another development, the PNA welcomed a U.S. State Department report confirming that the PNA is capable of carrying its responsibilities toward the peace process and of maintaining security and stability in the PNA areas.

Concerning an Israeli press statement attributed to prisoner Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, on the possibility of making peace with Israel, Abu-Rudaynah said: In its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO had signed an agreement with Israel. Everybody should respect this agreement.

He said: We call on all brethren to join efforts in order to build the Palestinian state and safeguard Palestinian achievements. We extend our hands to everybody to work together for the sake of national interests and building the independent state whose capital will be holy Jerusalem.

Reacting to Israel's shelling of a house in the town of Halhul in Hebron on Friday [2 June], he said: We reject inhumane procedures and brutal treatment of Palestinian citizens. He added: What happened is a violation of the spirit of the peace agreement. If it cares about the peace process, Israel must change its methods toward the Palestinian people in oreder to protect the peace process from collapse.

Al-Husayni, Abu-Rudaynah Denounce Hebron Incident

JN0206142495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni [Palestinian Authority official in charge of Jerusalem Affairs; and Nabil Abu-Rudaynah [adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat] have denounced the Israeli measures in the city of Hebron, including the shelling of houses with rockets and the martyrdom of Palestinian youth Hamid Yaghmur. This came in statements by al-Husayni and Abu- Rudaynah to the Jericho Voice of Palestine at noon today.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] I believe that these Israeli measures are incompatible with the peace process, and in fact indicate something else. As you know, when the Israelis carried out indiscriminate shelling of houses in Gaza, we said that the occupation was in its last days in Gaza. This actually took place. I believe that these measures indicate an end to occupation in this area. In such cases, occupation forces usually behave nervously,

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indiscriminately, and in an erratic manner. We remember such phenomena before the French withdrawal from Algeria, before the British withdrawal from Aden, and before the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. This is now taking place in Hebron. Signs are that the occupation has no choice but to carry out more and more oppressive measures and to use all its army forces. This indicates an end to the occupation. One reason for this nervousness is that Israel believes matters are slipping out of its control.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Certainly, these actions are incompatible with the peace process and are absolutely unacceptable. Weapons, rockets, and this large number of soldiers should not be used in such a barbaric way in order to panic civilians. The peace process is under way, and the Israelis should respect human rights and should know that shedding Palestinian blood in this way is not allowed. The Palestinian people should not be treated in this way so that the peace process can be preserved. [end recording]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Rejects Palestinian Proposal on Tubas Area

TA0206073595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Israeli representatives will meet next week to discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria and the implementation of the idea of Janin first. As part of this redeployment, the Palestinians proposed to Israel to hand the Tubas area over to them to create a geographical link to the Jericho area, but Israel turned down the proposal. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the General Staff's Planning Branch, will meet General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya at the beginning of next week to continue to discuss the IDF redeployment in the West Bank. Al-Yahya will be accompanied by a delegation of five Fatah activists from Janin to discuss the implementation of the idea of Janin first.

Israel proposed to hand the town of Janin and the adjoining refugee camp over to the Palestinians as a first step in the redeployment, but the Palestinians turned down the proposal. A senior Palestinian Authority official said that, for their part, the Palestinians had proposed that as a first step toward the implementation of the redeployment, Israel hand over the Tubas area in order to create a geographical contiguity with the Jericho area. The Palestinians proposed joint use of the Jericho-Tubas road by Israeli-Palestinian patrols, similar to Route 90 in Jericho. Israel categorically rejected the proposal and once again proposed that only the town of Janin serve as a model of the redeployment and that all other Palestinian demands be discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat.

To repeat, discussions about Israel's proposal will continue next week. In the meantime, the Palestinians are going ahead with their preparations in anticipation of the deployment of their forces in the Janin area. Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Security Service in Jericho, summoned 180 Fatah activists from the Janin area who were recently released from jail to Jericho. He intends to recruit them to his service and deploy them in the Janin area.

Peres, Oman's Bin-'Alawi Discuss 'Low-Level' Ties

TA0206142195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Drora Perl in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Meeting in Washington, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Omani counterpart, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, reached an agreement on the transit of El Al planes through Omani skies. Bin-'Alawi agreed in principle that El Al planes may fly through Omani airspace on their way to Asian destinations and that the Muscat airport may be used for emergency landings.

Oman and Israel will soon hold preparatory contacts for encounters between delegations from the two countries that will decide on the planes' routes, flight altitude, and so forth.

The agreement was reached in the course of a second meeting between Peres and Bin-'Alawi in Washington yesterday. Also during the meeting, the foreign minister informed Bin-'Alawi that he had been successful in raising partial funding for sea water desalination works in Oman, some of which will come from Israel. The initial funding package raised by Peres stands at approximately $3 million — about 10 percent of the project's estimated cost — and is expected to facilitate raising the rest of the funds.

Peres and Bin-'Alawi agreed that an announcement on the establishment of a steering committee that will draft work plans for the project will be issued at the next meeting of the multilateral group on water, scheduled to convene in Oman in the second half of June.

The Omani desalination project is seen as the central component of the cooperation plans for the new Middle East. The Omanis expect it to become a regional center for studies by groups from many other countries and in which a research institute for desalination technologies and their implementation will be established. Under this

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plan, experts from each country, including Israel, will participate in the work and in training participants from various countries.

The second Peres-Bin-'Alawi meeting did not result in a clear Omani reply concerning the date for the establishment of Israeli-Omani diplomatic relations, which have been delayed for many months. The two foreign ministers said the issue had been discussed, and Peres even warned that Oman, Tunisia, and other Gulf countries were liable "to miss the bus" of peace, since belated participation may be less than effective. Timing is of the essence, the foreign minister stressed in a talk with Israeli reporters.

Israeli sources said that last night's nocturnal conversation resulted in the establishment of a low-level relationship as the first step. Nevertheless, it is still unclear when these relations will be officially announced, although both sides regard them as a fact that needs merely to be acted upon.

Bin-'Alawi told reporters that his country would like to establish relations "as soon as possible," but he did not commit himself to a specific date. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Israel's Peres Claims Secret 'Contacts' With Government

NC0306161795 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, June 3 (AFP) — An Algerian newspaper Saturday [3 June] published the first interview ever conducted by the country's press in Israel, quoting Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as saying there would be an Arab minister in future Israeli governments. The Algerian private daily El Watan quoted Peres as saying an Arab would definitely be given a ministerial portfolio by the government, which would also choose an Arab to serve as ambassador to a European country.

"The time has arrived to open the doors of government to the Arab intelligentsia," Peres told the daily. "There is no doubt" an Arab will be appointed minister, he added. "We will also appoint an Arab ambassador in Europe for the first time, probably in Finland."

He gave no timetable for such appointments.

Peres also revealed in the interview that secret contacts between Israeli and Algerian officials had been made on one or two occasions, but regretted that Algeria had always denied this.

"Why have Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt kept the way open to our state and not Algeria?" Peres asked.

Foreign Ministry Denies 'Fabrications'

LD0406154295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry strongly denied the report in AL-WATAN yesterday that contacts have taken place between Algerian and Israeli officials. The daily published an interview yesterday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by (Taieb Belghich), in which official contacts between Algerian and Israeli officials was mentioned in the interview.

In view of these fabrications, the Foreign Ministry again offers a categorical denial and stresses that there have been no contacts between Algerian and Israeli officials.

Daily Suspended for Criticizing Government

LD0406141595 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Press reports today have revealed that the publicly-owned Algerian daily newspaper HORIZON has been suspended since 30 May by the Ministry of Communications and has not appeared since that date. The reason given was, quote: straying from the state-directed line of conduct. In fact, the suspension, which was not put in writing to the paper's management, came as the result of an article which implicated the government in the newsprint shortage that prevented most newspapers from appearing over a period of several days. The article was never seen by the public, however, since all copies of the edition in which it appeared were removed from the printers by order of the Ministry of Communications.

Curbs on Opposition Eased as Election Prelude

MM0206163595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in London and agencies in Algeria: "Zeroual Eases Restrictions on Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from reliable Algerian political sources that, in the course of its preparations for the presidential elections which it intends to hold before the end of this year, the Algerian Government has begun to ease the restrictions imposed on Shaykh Abbassi Madani, leader of the outlawed [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], and his deputy Ali Belhadj, and to "reduce" the political role of the military establishment.

The sources confirmed the emergence of a tendency within the ruling circles to have civilian candidates for the presidential elections and to rule out all the current military officials in an attempt to discipline the Algerian Army and keep it out of the current political conflicts in Algeria. That would mean that the chances of President and Defense Minister Liamine Zeroual being nominated for election would diminish. The issue of his candidacy has been the subject of much speculation since the announcement of the presidential elections plans.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that circles of the main opposition factions which participated in the second Rome conference last January have been informed of the authorities' intentions regarding the two FIS leaders, which include returning them to the Djenan El Mufti villa in the Algerian capital under house arrest. They also said that recent guidelines issued by Madani and Belhadj as contained in bulletins and statements monitored by the authorities showed some moderation in their positions on the elections and the situation in general.

The sources said that Hocine Ait-Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], and Abdelhamid Mehri, leader of the National Liberation front [FLN], had stressed to envoys of the authorities that promoting relative calm and easing political restrictions "would

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help facilitate the elections and make them acceptable to everyone." They added that Ait-Ahmed and Mehri emphasized that the authorities should, if they really want legitimate jurisdiction to enable them to move forward to a more general legitimacy through general parliamentary elections, ensure that the presidential election move is acceptable to all Algerian political forces.

According to the same sources, President Zeroual supports this trend and sees the presidential elections as a decisive and major phase which could take the country to a new era and extricate it from its current political crisis. Zeroual has been quoted as saying that it is now necessary to confine political activity to civilians because the Army has always been for all the homeland and should remain so. Zeroual, the sources say, believes that this conviction should be equally upheld by the military and the civilians "because any detriment to the Army would cost Algeria dearly."

In another development, today's edition of the EL REBAT bulletin, which is close to the FIS, has attacked the Algerian authorities' call up of reservists in the course of the preparations for the presidential elections, seeing it as evidence of the failure of the security solution policy. It also said that the regime, by insisting on holding the elections, is trying "to get legitimacy by illegitimate means by depending on electoral laws promulgated by the regime itself and approved by an unelected council lacking all credibility." That insistence, it said, "would have grave consequences for the people and the country."

Minister Confirms FIS Leaders Returned to Jail

LD0206134595 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algeria's interior minister has confirmed that two FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders, Abassi Madani and 'Ali Belhadj, are indeed back in prison. He adds in an interview published in the Arab paper AL-HAYAT that he cannot give details of where the two men are being held, and adds that he does not know whether they are being held together or separately. [passage omitted]

Security Kills 27 'Terrorists' in Operations

LD0306214295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another statement by the security services stated today that the security forces killed 27 terrorists during several search operations in Tlemcen, Algiers, Blida, Tipaza, Mostaganem, Ain Timochent, and Guelma.

The security forces during these operations recovered quantities of weapons and ammunition.

Security Forces Eliminate 'Terrorist Group'

LD0306180795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services issued a statement today announcing the killing of a dangerous 11-member terrorist group in the Ain Melha in the Gue de Constantine, east of Algiers. The statement said that the security forces recovered three Beretta submachine guns, two Skorpion and Schekom machine pistols, two automatic pistols, and four hunting rifles. The statement added that a Renault Express vehicle was recovered. It was stolen after the assassination of television reporter Mourad Hmaizi.

Egypt

Mubarak, 'Arafat Discuss Peace Process

NC0506092595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The meeting comes within the scope of the two presidents' consultations on the developments of the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process and the other tracks.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and on the Palestinian side by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah and President 'Arafat's Media Adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

PA's Sha'th Views Meeting With Musa, Peace Process

NC0406131695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA]. After the meeting, Sha'th said that they discussed several subjects related to the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Dr. Sha'th noted the importance of his meeting with 'Amr Musa three weeks before the 1 July date specified by Israel to complete all the negotiations pertaining to the transitional stage and involving the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian towns and villages

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in the West Bank, holding Palestinian elections, and transferring all powers to the Palestinians.

He pointed out that the Palestinians will be confronted with the strategic situation of looking at other options if Israel does not implement what it has promised to do or fails to meet its commitments.

Sha'th called on Israel to adhere to its commitment of the 1 July deadline because failure to do so would place the peace process in a predicament.

He said that the current Israeli attitude to the negotiations does not show a real willingness to achieve concrete results by the above date.

Noting that the Palestinians have not declared that they will revive the intifadah, he explained that what Faysal al-Husayni, the official in charge of the Jerusalem file, actually said was that the intifadah erupted in similar circumstances of Israeli intransigence, evasiveness, and lack of commitment.

Sha'th urged Israel not to drive matters toward an impasse and explained that Israel's adherence to the set date will "salvage" the peace process.

Sha'th pointed out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will hold important consultations about the peace process, particularly the Palestinian track, in the next few days. He said that 'Arafat will meet with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Jericho next Wednesday; with Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, on Thursday; and with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Friday [7, 8, and 9 June respectively].

Sha'th reported that the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee will meet in Cairo next week.

Commenting on the situation in Jerusalem, Sha'th said that Arab action under Egypt's leadership had an effect illustrated by Israel's backing down from its decision to expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem. He stressed that it is important not to belittle Arab action. He also referred to the position adopted by the Knesset's Arab deputies and the role they played in forcing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to back down.

Sha'th praised Europe's position and support for the Arab position, which led to the isolation of the United States when it used the veto against a UN Security Council resolution on Jerusalem.

Sha'th remarked that there will be no full peace unless the Jerusalem problem is solved.

Kohl Leads German Delegation on Official Visit

Prime Minister Praises Relations

NC0206211195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has praised relations between Egypt and Germany and has described them as very good.

Dr. Sidqi said in statements to journalists at Cairo airport upon the arrival of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that Germany cooperates with Egypt and helps it in its economic reform process.

He added that Chancellor Kohl is being accompanied by a large delegation of German businessmen, parliamentarians, and unionists who give the visit great importance.

Dr. Sidqi clarified that the talks Chancellor Kohl will be holding with President Mubarak will touch on a number of international issues of mutual interest, foremost of which is the issue of peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said in his statements that a delegation of German businessmen will meet with the ministers concerned with the business sector in Egypt, as well as with Egyptian businessmen, to investigate possibilities of joint cooperation between the two sides.

He pointed out that among the topics the German delegation will discuss in Egypt is a partnership agreement with the EU, similar to the one Egypt has with the United States.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that a technical group from the EU will soon visit Egypt in July to discuss this topic.

On the other hand, Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed in similar statements to journalists his joy over visiting Egypt and meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Discusses Investment, Peace

NC0306204595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the visit to Egypt by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl reflects the strong relations between Egypt and Germany. He was speaking after President Husni Mubarak's meeting with a German businessmen's delegation. The German businessmen expressed appreciation for the good progress made by the Egyptian economy in various areas. They said this progress will encourage further cooperation and investment between the two countries. The talks dealt with the possibility of

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establishing joint ventures in the fields of electronics, textile industries, petrochemicals, and leather industries.

President Mubarak said that the states of the region expect equal cooperation based on integration, not competition. He said Egypt is not sensitive about establishing joint ventures with the states of the region. On the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, President Mubarak said that the reluctance reflected by the slow implementation of this declaration may have raised some fears that such cooperation will not take place. The president warned that any setback in the implementation of the declaration may threaten the peace process.

President Mubarak noted that Cairo will be the scene of many future meetings for the parties to the peace process. This is in addition to the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he said.

On fears by foreign investors that the peace process in Gaza may falter, President Mubarak explained that there is concern for the peace process because the alternative to this process will have serious repercussions and will unleash violence in the region.

Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained during his meeting with the German businessmen that Egypt, with the infrastructure it managed to build, is capable of achieving the utmost cooperation in all areas. He said that the new industrial zones and the proposed free zones allow the establishment of successful projects at the local level, the regional level, or for export purposes. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Kohl Hold News Conference

NC0306103595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 June 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have stated the importance of continuing the Egyptian-German cooperation to serve the interests of both countries and to help stability in the Middle East. President Mubarak praised the Egyptian-German ties and commended Germany's role in support of the region's issues as well as for Chancellor Kohl's personal role in supporting and unleashing the Mubarak-Kohl project for technical education in Egypt.

The two leaders made these remarks in a press conference at the end of their round of talks, which lasted for approximately two hours.

President Mubarak stated that he had discussed with Chancellor Kohl a number of important issues, chiefly bilateral ties, increasing cooperation between the two countries; the Middle East peace process, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track; and the Palestinian issue.

For his part, Chancellor Kohl underlined the depth of the relations linking Egypt and Germany as well his personal ties with President Mubarak. Kohl added that Egypt is the most important country in the region and that its president contributes much to maintaining regional stability, earning him German appreciation.

Kohl highlighted the need for Europe to live up to its responsibility in the Middle East, because peace in this region means world peace. He added that achieving regional peace is a moral commitment, since the region is the birthplace of the Islamic, Christian, and Jewish religions. Kohl hoped that his tour of the region would make an important contribution to the future of the Middle East. He reiterated his country's commitment to Egypt to boost, support, and invigorate the Mubarak-Kohl project for technical education.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak said: I seize this opportunity to welcome my brother and friend Chancellor Helmut Kohl, with whom I have established old and strong ties, something that reflects on the good relations between our two countries, which are strong and solid. We held a lengthy round of talks. During the talks we discussed bilateral ties, which are good. We also talked about increased cooperation and enhanced ties. We exchanged views on various other issues, including the Palestinian issue, the Middle East, the peace track with the Palestinians and Syrians, and other problems of interest to the region.

President Mubarak thanked Chancellor Kohl for his support for the Mubarak-Kohl project, which is an extremely important project for Egyptian vocational training. He wished him a nice stay among his friends in Egypt as well as a nice trip to Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian territories.

For his part, Chancellor Kohl thanked President Mubarak for the friendly reception and for the opportunity to hold talks. He added: We will resume our talks tomorrow morning. I thank you, Mr. President, for your willingness to receive German businessmen and representatives of German trade unions this afternoon. Chancellor Kohl added: Our personal ties are very good and we look forward to developing our already good relations between our two friendly states even further. The initiative we have undertaken regarding vocational training in Egypt is extremely important for your country, as it is to Egyptian-German relations. Egypt is the most important Arab state and President Mubarak is a man who contributes to achieving stability, and he enjoys our appreciation and support.

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Noting that a dramatic development and shift is taking place in Europe, Kohl noted that the present is extremely important. He added: In two or three years we will conclude the second Maastricht Treaty, which means that we in Europe must assume our regional responsibility to the Middle East, for peace in the Middle East means world peace. Kohl added: We emphasize that this commitment is moral, because the Middle East is the birthplace of the three heavenly religions and we can feel that peace in this region means world peace. As we have agreed, we want to contribute to this as much as we can. I have high hopes that my present trip to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian territories will contribute to this.

In reply to a question on the significance of not having Israeli officials accompany him during his scheduled visit to east Jerusalem and the effect of this step on the peace process, Chancellor Kohl said that the answer to this question requires much effort because we should have an equal understanding of the two sides.

He added: We should understand that there are semi-explosive situations that have accumulated in this region over many years. According to my experience, there will be no rapprochement if the two sides act. There will be no solution, settlement, or peace if we do not get closer and talk to each other. I never dreamed during my last visit to Cairo that I would return again as the chancellor of a united Germany. Many helped us achieve this but the important thing was a rapprochement between the two sectors of Germany. And this is what the Middle East needs as well.

Answering a question on the position of Germany and Europe on the Serbs' seizure of UN protection troops as hostages and human shields, Chancellor Kohl expressed his belief that the holding of hostages is a barbaric act. He said: We support any effort to confront such barbaric acts.

Kohl stated the need to release all the hostages unconditionally. He said: Germany supports all the contacts and initiatives in this respect. I hope that the Bosnian Serbs responsible for this have realized the extent of the damage they have caused. I also hope that they will clearly realize that psychological, dramatic changes have occurred in the world. He added that this could be a signal to Bosnia's Serbs to stop and think, as all those who had such a mentality failed to do so, as past events indicate. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Addresses Breakfast Banquet

NC0406142495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has emphasized the need for the Palestinians and Israelis to find solutions to the obstacles that bar the way to agreement on the redeployment of Israeli forces and setting a date for Palestinian elections. He said that this would impart "credibility" to the Palestinian negotiating track.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif reported that President Mubarak made these remarks to German parliamentarians during a breakfast banquet he hosted for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his delegation prior to their departure from Cairo early today. Al-Sharif said that Mubarak added that progress on the Syrian or Palestinian tracks would have an immediate impact on the entire process.

President Mubarak explained that the alternative to progress on the Palestinian track would be a very bad situation involving adverse and serious repercussions for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

President Mubarak recalled how the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was warmly welcomed and gave hope to the Palestinian public.

He pointed out, however, that since President Yasir 'Arafat returned to Gaza, no concrete progress has been made and this in turn led to acts of violence and the closure of the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. He added that this complicated the situation, deprived tens of thousands of Palestinians of their livelihood, and gave the enemies of peace an opportunity to undermine the entire peace process.

President Mubarak called on the EU countries to exploit their relations with all the concerned parties to call for sober and reasonable behavior. He urged them to play a role in ensuring the success of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles which is the first stage in solving the Palestinian issue which is in turn the core of the Middle East conflict.

Referring to the Arab boycott of Israel, the president said that this issue is closely linked to the general regional climate and the extent of progress on the various negotiating tracks. He explained that it is an issue of balance and a give-and-take attitude among the concerned parties.

Concerning the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, President Mubarak voiced the hope that there will be progress on this track, noting that such progress is linked to the land-for-peace principle. He declared that Syria will not

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accept anything less than the full return of the Golan Heights.

Minister al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak discussed several other issues with the German delegation, including the Lockerbie crisis. The president explained Libya's position on the issue and the points of disagreement between it and the West. He referred to Egypt's attempt to bring the views of the two sides closer on the matter.

President Mubarak commented on Egypt's relations with Sudan and Iran, declaring that Egypt wishes to have good relations with all countries based on mutual respect and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs.

Musa Hails 'Successful' Visit

NC0406095595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Mubarak's talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl covered all the topics related to relations between the Middle East and Europe, including the peace process and the Israeli nuclear program. The impact of the nuclear program on the prospects for unleashing a nuclear race or a race of mass destruction weapons in the Middle East was discussed as well.

In a statement today, Musa added that the talks also dealt with Egyptian-German relations and relations between Egypt and the EU. He noted that during the expanded talks, Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil submitted a full report on the Mubarak-Kohl project for vocational education and the progress made in it. Musa pointed out that businessmen from both countries had met during Kohl's visit and that President Mubarak met with a delegation of German businessmen.

Musa described Kohl's visit to Egypt as extremely successful, adding that the talks held during the visit covered a number of Egyptian-German activities as well as the European role in the peace process. He noted that it not only supported, but participated in the peace process, in accordance with Europe's balanced and sensible role.

On the question of terrorism, Musa pointed out that the talks had touched on this issue, threats of terrorism, and Europe's position on this subject.

Asked how seriously Europe is interested in the security and stability of the Middle East, the foreign minister said that Europe's interest is long-standing. He added: When we talk about security and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, we do not talk from a vacuum, for it is part of European-Middle East and European-Arab relations that seek to achieve stability between the two regions. He noted that any threat to stability in either region will have repercussions on the other region. An example of this is the situation in Bosnia, which is a European problem of ethnic and religious segregation that affects both Europe and our region, the same as any negative situation in our region would affect Europe.

Musa described the economic talks and meetings held during Kohl's visit to Egypt as among the most successful meetings between officials from the two countries. Commending Germany's present positive role in the region, Musa noted that emphasis during Kohl's visit had been given to economic cooperation, not economic aid, although this does not mean that there is no German economic aid to Egypt.

Musa called for developing a relationship with Germany so that Egypt may change from a mere aid recipient into a partner in an economic, investment, and trade cooperation, adding that the German side is open to such cooperation with Egypt.

Musa Urges 'Swift Action' Against Bosnian Serbs

NC0306101095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called for swift action to end the Serbian aggression against Bosnia. He added that there is no change in Egypt's or the international community's position regarding the Serbs' recent detention of a number of UN troops, whom the Serbs used as human shields. Musa made these remarks following President Mubarak's talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Musa stressed the need to take swift action against Bosnian Serb aggression. He added that any "lenient measures or policies" in the face of this aggression would encourage the Bosnia Serb aggression.

Regarding President Mubarak's talks with Chancellor Kohl today, Musa underlined the German and European roles in economic development in Egypt. He added: We welcome the European role, and the German role in particular, especially since Germany is a major state with an important role to play.

Journalists Consider Strike Over New Press Law

NC0506062895 Paris AFP in English 2329 GMT 4 Jun 95

[Report by Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 5 (AFP) — Egyptian journalists from both government and opposition

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papers have joined ranks in an unprecedented wave of protest at a new defamation law which they say aims to "kill" the press.

The journalists union is to meet on Saturday, June 10, to consider calling a general strike, which would be only the second in the 125-year history of the Egyptian press.

In 1952 newspapers stopped printing to protest a similar proposed law forcing it to be withdrawn.

A close associate of President Husni Mubarak, Ibrahim Nafi', head of the government daily AL-AHRAM and president of the union, has called the union's general assembly in a move seen as a sign of the strength of the outcry.

Editors in chief, including those in state papers, have written columns denouncing the law, adopted on May 27, saying the stiff fines and prison sentences it sets for journalists accused of defamation are aimed at muzzling any criticism of the government.

'Adil Hammudah, editor in chief of the governmental weekly ROSE AL-YUSUF, ran a cover story in Sunday's edition attacking the "law to assassinate the press."

Mubarak, who signed the bill on May 28, has urged journalists "not try to boost circulation by attacking citizens' honor."

He has since tried to reassure journalists, saying the law "does not aim to curtail press freedom and will affect only those who publish defamatory information."

Journalists are planning a sit-in at their union on Tuesday and have focused their criticism on the "vague" terms of the law.

Mustafa Husayn, one of Egypt's most popular cartoonists with the government daily AL-AKHBAR, satirized last week the phrasing of the law making "contempt for state institutions...punishable with a prison sentence of up to three years."

Journalists publishing "false information" which harms the economy would face the stiffest penalties with a maximum prison term of five years and fines of up to 20,OOO pounds (6,000 dollars).

On Thursday half of the union's 4,000 members met for six hours and proposed filing a complaint with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) against Fathi Surur, president of the Egyptian parliament and head of the IPU.

They accused Surur of rushing the law though parliament without any discussions with journalists.

"Whoever supports it (the law) is not a journalist and we will continue our campaign to overturn it," said Galal 'Isa, editor in chief of the governmental weekly AKHIR SA'AH.

"All journalists from the extreme left to the extreme right condemn this suspect law. We say to those who passed it: 'Take it back if you want to keep the social peace'," warned Ihsan Bakr, deputy head of AL-AHRAM.

Even the tightly-controlled state television has run three days of debate in response to the outcry.

Libya

Malian President Konare Pays Official Visit

Expresses 'Delight' Upon Arrival

LD0306101895 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Sayf [June] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Alpha Oumar Konare, the president of the Republic of Mali, last night arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Malian president was given a big welcoming ceremony headed by the leader of the revolution.

Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were the secretary and members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the secretary and members of the General People's Committee.

Also taking part were a number of the officers of armed people, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and members of the Malian community in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Malian president made a statement to JANA expressing his delight and pleasure at his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah and his meeting with the leader of the revolution.

President Alpha Oumar Konare said 'My visits expresses the distinguished relations linking our two countries. This is thanks to the total readiness of the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who shows constant keen interest in relations between out two countries and African issues. Also we came to talk with the leader on African issues and brief him on the news of our country. When I say our country I mean Mali for I consider Mali the country of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and not only ours. Also I am aware of his interest in our country and African countries.'

The Malian president is accompanied in his visit by a delegation including the minister for external relations and cooperation and Malians abroad, the political advisor to the head of state, the commissioner of the north,

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the delegate of Malians abroad and the director of the department for international cooperation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Attends Meeting on 'Common Interests'

LD0306120695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1030 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 3 Jun 1995, JANA — An enlarged Libyan-Malian meeting was held last night. It was attended by Mali President Alpha Oumar Konare and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee. [passage omitted]

The meeting discussed ways of consolidating relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Mali in order to meet the common interests of the two friendly countries.

Meets al-Qadhdhafi in Closed Session

LD0306154895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1515 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 3 Jun [JANA] — A closed meeting was held today between the brother leader of the revolution and Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare.

They held another meeting later, which was attended by the following: the brother secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation and the brother secretary of the general people's committee for unity; and on the Malian side by the minister of foreign affairs, Malians abroad, and integration; the political adviser of the president; the representative of Malians abroad; and the director of the international cooperation department at the Malian Foreign Ministry.

Signs Accord To Boost Cooperation

LD0406165295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1530 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 4 Jun (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution and Malian President Oumar Konare attended today the signing of the minutes of an agreement to follow-up cooperation between the great Jamahiriyah and Mali. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and Malian Foreign Minister D. Traore.

The minutes stipulated the boosting of cooperation in the fields of agriculture, information, and culture, as well as cooperation in investment and trade. [passage omitted]

Issues Joint Statement on Ties

LD0406200695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1615 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 4 Jun (JANA) — A joint press release was issued in Tripoli and Bamako today by the Great Jamahiriyah and Mali at the end of the visit paid by Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare. [passage omitted]

The two sides expressed their commitment to develop cooperation between them and stressed the need to adopt the necessary measures for consolidating bilateral relations in all fields and following up all issues agreed upon. They stressed the need to intensify contacts between the competent authorities in the two countries so as to implement minutes and agreements.

The Malian side welcomed the resolution of the African group at the United Nations nominating the Great Jamahiriyah for membership in the United Nations.

The two sides expressed their anxiety about the continuation of armed clashes in various parts of the continent and the destruction and killing of innocents they are causing.

The two sides stressed that the debts issue was a burden for most African states and that the best solution to that question lies in the control by African states of their own wealth and natural resources, cooperation between them, and setting up an equitable world economic order.

The two sides stressed the need to give a boost to the OAU to enable it to carry out its duties fully and find efficient solutions to the continent's problems with African means. They stressed the importance of Arab-African cooperation and the development of cooperation between the Arab Maghreb states and African ones in general and the states of West and Central Africa to activate development and guarantee the defense of their interests. [passage omitted]

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the peace agreement signed by the government of Niger and the armed resistance organization. [passage omitted]

Departs After Farewell Ceremony

LD0406165895 Tripoli JANA in English
1643 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, June 4, JAMAHIRYA NEWS AGENCY — The President of the Republic of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare left Tripoli this afternoon as the leader of the revolution headed the farewell cermony.

Taking part in the farewell ceremony were the secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary for

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women's affairs and secretary for the congresses' affairs to the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the secretaries of the General People's Committees for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Unity [words indistinct].

Secretary, Egyptian Minister Discuss NATO

LD0306213195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has continued its contacts with brotherly Arab countries to expose the hellish Western crusade scheme aimed at renewing the Western colonialist states' domination over North Africa and the Arab homeland and, consequently, military domination over the world. This is supported by the new evidence that confirms the alliance's feverish efforts to execute the scheme, and the alliance's announcement on setting up an embryo rapid military deployment force in the Mediterranean region with the participation of a number of Arab states and the Israeli enemy.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity had a telephone conversation today with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa. The implications of the dangerous scheme, by which NATO, the neocolonialist alliance, plans to contain and dominate the region, and the need to expose the Western crusade scheme and confront it with an all-embracing Arab stance were discussed during the conversation.

Editor on NATO 'Military Intervention Forces'

LD0206145595 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Al Sayf [June] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — NATO, the new colonialist alliance decided to form the basic unit for military intervention forces. This step came within the colonialist plot aimed at colonialising the Arab World once again.

News reports published in London today mentioned that NATO and some Arab countries in addition to Israel agreed to form two divisions for rapid intervention in the Mediterranean region.

News reports quoted sources in NATO's Ministerial Council as saying that the ministers of the alliance will have a meeting with officials from these countries in October to define the modus operandi of this venture.

JANA's Arab affairs reporter commented on this news and said that this step will be implemented with the participation of some Arab countries and Israel and will pose a threat to Arab national security because it means handing over North Africa to NATO (a new colonialist alliance) and urged the Arab masses to defend themselves by confronting the new colonialist hegemony.

JANA's Arab affairs reporter asserted that the Libyans will be ready to defend themselves because the NATO's forces will be on Libya's western and eastern borders. He once again warned about this plot and indicated it will the Libyans to chance their regional alliances.

On the other hand JANA said that the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity sent an urgent statement to the Arab League in which it defined Libya's stance against this serious plot which is targeting the identity of the whole Arab nation. He urged the Arab League to take a serious stance regarding the problem.

Morocco

Reportage on Fifth Round of EU Fisheries Talks

Talks End; Future Meeting Planned

LD0306134195 Rabat MAP in English 1323 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jun. 03 (MAP) — The fifth round of the negotiations between Morocco and the European Union (EU) to renew their fisheries accord expired last April 30 ended here Friday [2 June] night.

The two negotiating parties decided to convene in a "near future" after consultations, a source close to the Moroccan delegation said.

The fifth round started Thursday.

Statement Issued on Talks

LD0306220695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the fifth round of talks between Morocco and the European Union on fisheries, the Ministry of Marine Fisheries and Merchant Marine issued a statement. The statement reaffirmed that the fifth round of talks between Morocco and the European Union was held in Rabat on 1 and 2 June with a view to reaching an agreement on marine fisheries.

The two sides reviewed the main conditions for an agreement. Morocco thought, however, that the European Commission failed to come up with a scheme that would meet Morocco's initial offer, made at the outset of the talks. The European side asked for a break in order to consult with other EU bodies.

The two sides agreed to meet again; however, the date and the venue of the meeting will be fixed later by a joint agreement through the diplomatic channels.

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Sudan

'Peace Convoys' Enter Rebel Area After 14 Years

EA0406190795 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Jun 4 (SUNA) — The peace convoy by the commissioner of Wahda (Unity) Province, Bahr al-Ghazal Region, was able to enter Faryang area for the first time in 14 years following the conclusion of an internal peace agreement with the commander of the outlaws in the area, Miek Jaw, who was member of the mainstream faction of the outlaws movement (Garang faction), a security source announced Sunday [4 June].

The source told SUNA [SUDAN NEWS AGENCY] that another peace convoy, code-named al-Salam Tamah (Peace Achieved) No. 4, organized by the government of the neighbouring South Kordofan State, had joined the first peace convoy.

The second peace convoy started its march from Kadugli town on Kadugli-Tarogia Bohayrat-al-Obeid Road, which had been shut for the past 14 years, the source said, noting that the peace convoy was staged in the context of the twinship agreement concluded between South Kordofan and Wahda States.

The source explained that the restoration of Faryang area deprived the outlaws movement of an important supply and training centre and a route for receiving foreign aid.

Faryang area had been the main [word indistinct] route for the outlaws in the area and southern Kordofan, the source said. He added that the outlaws, assisted by their collaborators, foreign organizations and institutions, had constructed a 2.5 kilometre- long runway at the area, capable of receiving all types of planes.

It is worth mentioning that peace convoys 1, 2, 3 head to Hayban, Talodi and Rango Abdallah areas, respectively.

Reportage on Aircraft's 'Unauthorized Entry'

Initial Statement Clarified

EA0306194295 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 3 Jun (SUNA) — The Foreign Ministry today clarified that the organization mentioned in the Foreign Ministry's statement last Thursday [1 June] on the unauthorized entry of Sudan's airspace by a foreign aircraft is the Italian Medical Cooperation Committee, and not World Vision as reported by the various media.

Italian Doctor Detained

EA0406130995 Nairobi KNA in English 1026 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 4 Jun (KNA/PANA) — Sudan on Saturday [3 June] said here the Italian doctor it is detaining worked for the Italian Medical Cooperation Committee, CCM, and not World Vision as reported before.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said government has proof that Dr. Giuseppe Meo, who was detained on Thursday for flying his plane into Sudanese territory without permission, did not work for World Vision, which deals with relief.

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that Meo had confessed during interrogation that he entered Sudan through the Nubah Mountains adjacent to areas controlled by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA. He said he was flying a leased plane owned by the UN-funded relief programme, Operation Lifeline Sudan, OLS.

According to the paper, Dr. Meo has said he was working for the Italian Konfo hospital in Torino and had used [as received] to enter rebel-held areas in Sudan.

The doctor was discovered in an SPLA camp by the commissioner of Paryang area [in Wahdah State], who was on a tour after concluding a peace agreement with the rebels active in the area.

The flying doctor will most likely be released "due to the excellent relations between Sudan and Italy".

Tunisia

Gabonese President Pays Official Visit

Arrives For State Visit

LD0106165895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] El Hadj Omar Bongo, the president of the Republic of Gabon, arrived on a state visit in Tunis this afternoon on invitation from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The head of state and his spouse, Mrs. Leila Ben Ali, were at the reception of the Gabonese president and his spouse at Tunis-Carthage international airport.

Issues Communique on Talks

LD0306142695 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The state visit paid by [Gabon President] Hadj Omar Bongo to Tunisia was

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crowned by a joint communique which said in particular that the two presidents held many talks which took place in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere. This enabled them to review bilateral relations and exchange viewpoints on current African and international issues. [passage omitted]

The communique noted that the viewpoints of Tunisia and Gabon on all African and international issues are identical.

With regard to the situation prevailing in the African continent, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the establishment of a durable peace in Mozambique and the encouraging results of the national concord process in Angola.

Regarding the situation in the Great Lakes region, the two sides expressed their concern over the continuing tension in Burundi and Rwanda, and renewed their support for the efforts of the OAU and the United Nations for reaching national consensus.

The two presidents hailed the initiative by the nine-man committee of the economic community of West African states for solving the Liberian question.

The two presidents expressed concern over the situation in Somalia and their anxiety about the numerous problems impeding the development process in Africa. They stressed the need to find new types of international cooperation based on partnership and solidarity development. They called on the developed countries to reschedule African debts in the benefit of programs for economic, social, and environmental development. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic Pays Visit

Honored at Banquet

LD0306210095 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 2000 this evening Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the council of minister, held a banquet at al-Sha'b palace in honor of Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his official visit to the State of Kuwait.

The banquet was attended by National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister, finance minister, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting minister of planning; Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee for the affairs of prisoners of war and the missing; and Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al- Jabir al-Sabah, deputy commander of the National Guard.

The banquet was also attended by the minister of amiri court affairs, ministers, advisers at the amiri court, adviser at the court of the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, governors, a number of former ministers, and senior state officials.

The banquet was also attended by members of the diplomatic corps, the ambassador of the State of Qatar to the State of Kuwait, the accompanying mission, and a number of officials from the heir apparent's office and the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Foreign Minister al-Sabah

LD0306211795 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in his rooms in al-Bayan palace at 1930 this evening.

The meeting was attended by the head of the accompanying mission and Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah; Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; Ambassador Ahmad Fahd al-Fahd, director of the office of the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh 'Ali al-Abdallah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, director of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Dr. Naim Kadic, ambassador from the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Received by Amir

LD0406105495 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning at 0930, his highness the amir received His Excellency Dr. Haris Silajdzic, the prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of his official visit to the country. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the minister of the amir's office; Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah; and Dr Maim Kadic, the ambassador of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Participates in Joint Talks

LD0406115095 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1000 this morning at Bayan Palace, joint talks were held between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, and His Excellency Dr. Haris Silajdzic, the prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by:

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister;

Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, the adviser at the office of the heir apparent and prime minister;

Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir;

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, minister of information and head of the escort delegation;

Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn, minister of communications, electricity, and water;

Ahmad Khalid al-Kulayb, minister of social affairs and labor;

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin;

'Abdallah Muhammad al-'Abd al-Razzaq, the acting undersecretary of the office of the heir apparent and prime minister;

Shaykh 'Ali 'Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, director of the Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry.

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They were attended on the Bosnia-Herzegovina side by:

His Excellency Jadranko Prlic, the deputy prime minister and defense minister;

Energy and Industry Minister Faruk Smajlbegovic;

Muharem Cero, minister of refugees, social affairs, and labor;

Dr. Naim Kadic, the ambassador of the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina to the state of Kuwai; and senior Bosnian officials.

The talks centered on the good bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways of strengthening them in various fields, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Oil Minister, Bosnian Energy Minister Meet

LD0406181295 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting was held at 1730 [1430 GMT] this evening at Bayan Palace between Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj, and Faruk Smajlbegovic, energy and industry minister for the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yemen

Government Sources Cited on Arrest of Carlos Aide

JN0206183795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jun 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo today, Yemeni Government sources said that the Yemeni security forces arrested one of the most prominent aides of international terrorist Carlos in Aden following the civil war and entry of government forces into the city at the beginning of last July. The sources added that the Yemeni security apparatus had secretly investigated German terrorist Johannes Weinrich, who also has two aliases — Peter Smith and John Salih. The sources said that the German authorities were informed of the matter when the investigation ended recently.

Meanwhile, the same sources said that the Yemeni Government is studying the necessary arrangements to hand the German terrorist to the German authorities as he holds German citizenship. The sources said that the Yemeni security apparatus arrested German terrorist Johannes Weinrich in a quarter of Aden where he was hiding, adding that investigations showed that he was the right-hand man of international terrorist Carlos, who was arrested in Sudan at the end of last year and was handed over to the French authorities.

The Yemeni Government sources linked the presence and arrest of the international terrorist in Aden with the Yemeni Socialist Party's involvement in international terrorism even after the reunification of the two parts of Yemen in May 1990.

Further on Arrest of Carlos Aide

JN0306151995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to Yemeni News Agency, SABA', a responsible security source has said that competent security organs have arrested international terrorist Johannes Weinrich — a German national who is one of the world's most dangerous terrorists and right-hand man of notorious international terrorist Carlos.

The source said that the arrest took place in Aden after the forces of legitimacy entered the city following its rescue from the renegade and secessionist forces, under the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and those who entered into alliance with them. These forces barricaded themselves in Aden during their implementation of the conspiracy of secession and war.

The source said that terrorist Johannes was arrested in Aden where he was hiding under many false names — including Johannes Weinrich, Peter Smith, and John Salih — and where he enjoyed the care and protection of the YSP. German authorities were informed of his arrest. The source explained that since the arrest of terrorist Johannes, security organs ensured that their investigations were conducted in a calm atmosphere in order to obtain all the information linking him with the terrorist activities he carried out with many terrorists, headed by terrorist Carlos. These two terrorists as well as other terrorists of different nationalities enjoyed the care and protection of the YSP during the period before the restoration of the unity of the Yemeni homeland on 22 May 1990 and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. This was during the YSP rule in what was previously called the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The source said that the presence of terrorist Johannes Weinrich and the presence of terrorist Carlos in Aden before him confirms the relationship which continued to link the YSP to international terrorist Carlos during its ruling period. Moreover, it confirms that the YSP continued to maintain close ties with international terrorists, even after the achievement of unity on 22 May 1990.

The source noted that international terrorist Carlos arrived with his wife at Sanaa Airport in 1992. The

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security authorities at the airport detained Carlos for 24 hours and banned him from entering the country after it forced him to return to where he came from aboard the same plane. This is despite the fact that traitor ['Ali Salim] al-Bid, former secretary general of the YSP, tried to take advantage of his position in the country at the time. He asked the minister of interior and security at the time to allow Carlos and his wife to enter the country. The then minister of interior and security was convinced of how dangerous such a measure would be to the reputation of the Republic of Yemen, which stands against terrorism and whose territories cannot accept any terrorist. Terrorist Carlos and his wife were deported and banned from entering Yemeni territories.

The source added that contacts were previously held between our country and the friendly Republic of Germany through which our German friends were informed that terrorist Johannes Weinrich had been arrested and that preparations were underway to hand him over to the German authorities within the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Yemen and Germany.

The source said that the Republic of Yemen remains firmly against all forms of terrorism. He added that the Republic of Yemen will support all efforts to combat and pursue terrorists out of concern that world peace, security, and stability should prevail.

Weinrich's Extradition to Germany Reported

JN0506054895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official security source has stated to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA' that security forces yesterday handed over Johannes Weinrich, the German international terrorist, to German authorities.

The source added that this was done in response to an official request from German authorities. The German international terrorist was deported under stringent security precautions. He was put on board a special plane headed for Germany.

The source reiterated that the policy of the Republic of Yemen, driven by a desire to promote world peace and security, will remain firmly opposed to all forms of terrorism, and support all efforts to combat it and pursue terrorists.

The security authorities arrested terrorist Johannes in Aden after troops of the legitimate government had cleansed the city of the renegade and secessionist Yemeni Socialist Party leaders and elements and their allies.

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AFP: 50 Dead in al-Ramadi Clashes; Tension High

NC0306163095 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, June 3 (AFP) — Daily clashes between tribesmen and Iraqi security forces have left about 50 people dead since riots erupted two weeks ago in the Iraqi city of al-Ramadi, residents said here Saturday [3 June].

Shots are heard regularly in the city, capital of the western province of al-Anbar, and tensions remain high, Iraqis fleeing the unrest said.

At least 50 people are now thought to have died in total. Several hundred were also wounded in the worst unrest in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War, al-Ramadi residents said after arriving in Jordan.

Dozens have been arrested and the army has been deployed in force in the area, exiles said earlier this week.

The unrest in the city, which lies on the road to Amman in a province known as the "white governorate" because of its previous loyalty to President Saddam Husayn, has transformed the area into hostile territory, Iraqi exiles said.

"Members of the al-Dulaymi family living in Syria are sending reinforcements of men and arms to their kinfolk in al-Anbar," said one refugee.

"There are frequent infiltrations across the Syrian-Iraqi border, which is difficult to control because it stretches across the desert," he added.

The troubles erupted on May 17, when members of the al-Dulaymi tribe which is usually loyal to Saddam, rioted, leaving about 30 people dead.

Travellers from Iraq said the riots erupted when the tortured body of one of their leaders, General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, was returned to them. He had been executed for his role in a coup attempt last year.

People arriving in Amman said the al-Dulaymi tribe was furious with the president because they thought the general's life would be spared by Saddam.

"Saddam promised to free him when a delegation from the tribe went to Baghdad to ask for clemency during the (Moslem) feast of sacrifice" on May 9, one of them said.

Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, a half-brother of the president who led elite troops using tanks and helicopters to crush the rioters, was sacked on May 22.

He was replaced by Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'dun, a member of the leadership from the Ba'th party's Revolutionary Command Council, diplomats said.

He is a former governor of the province of Salah-al-Din, north of Baghdad which includes Saddam's home town of Tikrit.

Regime Troops Said Massed on Karkuk-Irbil Border

NC0406142895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling regime in Iraq has massed troops along the contact lines between the Governorates of Karkuk and Irbil. The troops were seen digging trenches in the area.

According to eyewitness reports, several large-caliber artillery batteries were deployed along points close to Irbil last week.

Various areas in Irbil have come under bombardment, which caused material damage to villages and cities near Irbil.

Saddam Reportedly Dismisses 'Most Senior Escort'

JN0406150895 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 25

["Exclusive" report by Karim 'Abdallah in Kurdistan]

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of his recent campaign to dismiss, retire, or relieve officials from their posts in order to contain a power struggle, Saddam Husayn has dismissed his most senior escort and brother-in-law, Staff Major General Pilot Irshid Yasin, because of a squabble between him and Saddam's special secretary Major General 'Abd Hammud.

Sources from the armed national resistance movement inside Iraq have said that Irshid Yasin and 'Abd Hammud quarreled over who would take possession of some huge amounts of money, agricultural land, and confiscated buildings.

Opposition Cites BABIL on Destruction of Israel

NC0306150095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on a threat by Saddam Husayn's regime to destroy Israel and kill its people one after another, an Arab diplomat in Baghdad says this is crazy conduct and shows that the regime finally feels it is now in a cage awaiting a mercy killing. The diplomat fears that Saddam may be preparing an act of aggression against one of its neighbors.

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In one of the fiercest cheap propaganda attacks designed to distract the Iraqis from the al-Ramadi incidents and the worsening conditions throughout Iraq, the newspaper BABIL, published by Saddam's son 'Udayy, said Saddam is preparing one generation after another of men that will burn Israel. The Saddam regime's role and ultimate conviction, said BABIL, is that an end must be put to Israel and its men, one after another. The front-page article said that throwing Israel in the sea is not enough because the Jews that can swim may survive. The article was signed by Abu-Sarhan, widely believed to be the nickname of 'Udayy.

Reports from various sources spoke about secret contacts between the Baghdad regime and Tel Aviv. Israel told the United States last month that it rejected an offer from the ruling regime in Iraq to hold trade talks.

Paper: Ekeus 'Man of Special Missions' for U.S.

JN0306125695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA) — The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Ekeus insists on going too far in the U.S. political game in return for a big "reward" for his "major services" to the United States and the corrupt family in Kuwait.

In an article today headlined "Ekeus Unmasked: A Man of Special Missions," the newspaper adds that Ekeus' role as a "man of special missions" is not without a price. Therefore, he realized that his statements and stands concerning the lifting of the blockade are required in order to be rewarded by the Gulf states and the United States, just like Perez de Cuellar, former UN secretary general, who was given villas or apartments and privileges. Perez de Cuellar was also supported as a presidential candidate in his country in return for his services to the United States.

The paper says that Ekeus abandoned his traditional caution and became a "committed" and biased politician who not only provokes the Gulf states against Iraq, but also provokes the entire world against Iraq.

The paper refers to Ekeus' recent statements which reflected evident contradictions, double talk, and double standards. This is especially true of the statement which he made in Bahrain after leaving Baghdad the day before yesterday. In his statement, Ekeus claimed that "Iraq refuses to dispel doubts about its ability to threaten the Gulf states with biological weapons, something which results in delaying the lifting of the blockade." The paper says that such statements are not to be made by a "technical man." It adds that they reflect a clear political position and a noticeable change in Ekeus' stands.

The paper asks: Why is Ekeus doing so and at this particular time? It says: Ekeus' serious statements are indications that he now firmly believes that lifting the blockade is no longer an Iraqi problem, but one for many regional and world states. Therefore, lifting it has become primarily a matter of time.

Concluding its article, the newspaper describes Ekeus as a "man of special missions" hired by the United States and the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. To prove that, the paper refers to Ekeus' provocative statements against Iraq in which he said that "the bacteriological elements concerning which Iraq has given no clear explanation to the United Nations can be used to develop sufficient amounts of bacteria to kill the entire population of the world."

Paper Profiles New Interior Minister

JN3105182595 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 28 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] A short profile of Interior Minister Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq: He was born in 1942 in al-Saqr village, Suq al-Shuyukh District in Dhi Qar Governorate.

He completed his secondary education and was admitted to the Military College in 1963. He was then dismissed after the November coup [against the Ba'th Party in 1963].

He obtained a bachelors degree in law from Baghdad University — the Law and Political Science College. He then obtained a higher diploma from Al-Bakr University in Higher National Defense Military Studies.

He joined the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in 1956 and became a full-fledged member in 1963.

He was a member of the Central Farmers Office, and member of al-Karkh branch in 1970.

He assumed responsibility for organizing al-Qadisiyah Governorate in 1971, al-Muthanna in 1973, and al-Sulaymaniyah in 1975. He assumed the command of the party's Misan branch in 1979, then the secretariat of al-Najaf branch in 1982.

He was appointed governor of Salah al-Din Governorate in 1983. He was granted the party's badge on 29 July 1984. He was appointed director general of the Iraqi Command of the Ba'th Party secretariat in 1988.

He was appointed member of the Iraqi Command on 13 September 1991.

He was appointed interior minister by Republican Decree No. 153 on 22 May.

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Daily Views French Position, Personalities

95LH0129A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Mar 95 pp 4-5

[Article by Mazin Sahib and Nazirah Nadim: "Dialogue Marked by Clarity and Review in Symposium on Iraqi-French Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the last issue, we promised readers that we would publish a special article on the symposium "French-Iraqi Relations: a View Toward the Future" held under the auspices of the Organization for Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity in cooperation with the Republic Center for International Studies and the Society for the Development of French-Iraqi relations. The symposium concluded its proceedings by issuing the Baghdad Appeal, the text of which was published verbatim in AL-'UBUR.

AL-'UBUR Supplement here fulfills its promise, presenting its readers with dialogue and political analyses from the pens of the French thinkers and politicians who participated in the symposium; to which we have added short notes on the papers delivered by their Iraqi counterparts and gleanings, or as we have called them, "French Whispers," that our editors recorded during breaks between sessions of the symposium.

The first of the most important signs of the symposium's success was the attendance of the pan-Arab and Iraqi region leadership members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Foremost among them were Professor Taha Yasin Ramadan, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, and Dr. Ilyas Farah, as well as Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur. Also in attendance to participate in the talks of the symposium were Iraq's foremost senior researchers, specialists, and political writers. Their participation had an impact that evoked the delight of the French guests.

The second sign was the agreement of the French and Iraqi participants to issue the Baghdad Appeal. With its five important paragraphs, this appeal embodied a profound consciousness of a dialogue of civilizations based on the foundations of civilized human values and mutual respect for joint interests. The participants agreed that the blockade imposed on Iraq should be considered a crime of genocide. They called on France and other countries to release frozen Iraqi deposits as a first step and to work diligently to lift the embargo as soon as possible.

Among the symposium's most important themes was the assertion by Professor Edmond Jouve and Pierre (Birsiz) that the continuance of the blockade can be considered a shameful violation of the basic human rights guaranteed in international charters. This unambiguous French thesis reveals America's double standard and the biased political use of human rights concepts with hostile intentions against all the countries targeted under the banner of this specious accusation.

The French participants displayed great understanding of what they called "the historic mistake" of being swept after the United States and participating in the attack on Iraq. The well-known French political writer Charles Saint-Prot described this being swept away as follows: "Every Frenchman is convinced that, if General De Gaulle were alive, France would never have lined up against Iraq. They also are convinced that France committed 'a historic mistake' against the wishes of France."

America Tries To Set Trap for Iraq

Edmond Jouve, a professor specializing in international relations, has authored many papers on human rights. He participated in the symposium on Iraqi-French relations with a paper entitled, "The New World Order and the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination." He gave AL-'UBUR the following political analysis:

"In light of the paper I contributed to the symposium, in which I tried to clarify all the implications of the UN resolutions and charters aimed at protecting the rights of people and nations, including the rights of children and women, I affirm that by carrying out the blockade the international community is blatantly violating all the essential principles of the laws it has created. These laws center on two ideas: sovereignty and solidarity. As for sovereignty, the international community sadly is still violating Iraq's economic and cultural sovereignty by agreeing to continue the illegal blockade of Iraq, which has abided by all the resolutions of the Security Council. It is the duty of the United Nations now to begin to implement what is required to halt the revolting human suffering of the Iraqi people; for when this suffering continues, the international community is also violating the charters of human rights. Only one motive can explain this insistence on proceeding with violations: the desire to turn Iraq from a wealthy nation into a poor one.

"America is trying to set a trap for Iraq—at least as I see it—in order to force Iraq to negotiate over details of the Security Council's blockade resolutions. When the international community accepts this state of affairs, it wants to place Iraq in the position of someone defending himself or to force Iraq to be defending itself by distracting or enticing Iraq into a labyrinth (paragraph such and such of resolution such an such). In reality, Iraq should be on the offensive, not the defensive, because it is in the right and has all the legal grounds to demand that the international community respect its principles, charters, and resolutions."

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Professor Jouve said the following in his paper at the symposium:

"Cooperation in the international family is leading to the proposing of a new international economic program in light of which the family is adopting a charter of rights and duties for countries, especially in the economic area. Putting this idea on paper makes us ask what is the matter.... I would clarify this in two points: the conditions of the rights of sovereignty and the rights of solidarity. These conditions are being ignored at the present time. Under the United Nations Charter, all peoples have the right to determine their destiny and their economic and social orientation—in addition to the principle of the right to self-determination affirmed theoretically in the United Nations Charter. But what is the situation today? What is the situation of political rights?

"A state's right to choose its political system—capitalist or socialist—and to apply this system must be respected.

"Another principle ignored today concerns the rights of economic sovereignty and all UN measures at least since the sixties in the field of economic development regarding the right to economic self-determination. We find that this right is not respected, especially in energy production. It a right included in the charters of the United Nations.

"The other question is whether in cultural matters the United Nations is doing what ought to be done within its institutions. The answer is no; moreover, conditions are going from bad to worse. Your country, which has an ancient civilization, is an example of this. I went to Babel and saw the sites that show the depth of your civilization. The United Nations is forgetting all of that. The embargo, whose sad effects we see, is preventing you from necessary work for your culture. This is a fundamental right being violated because of the resolutions of the United Nations.

"There are many articles in the international charter. They include the right to solidarity, the right to development, the right to nutrition and health, and the right of the people to have their own sources of information that speak for their civilization.

"When Europe speaks about man, nevertheless we go about killing him. We should do something else, not imitate Europe. We should invent a new life and, in the future, a new man. I fervently hope that what you are doing will lead to the establishment of peace, for you astound everyone in your cultural achievements."

Why America's Stubborn Maintenance of the Blockade?

Mr. Michel (Balghurn), secretary of the French Senate's Committee on Arab-French Relations, stated to us: "The blockade was imposed on Iraq primarily for oil. It is clear that the other oil-producing countries hope to retain the blockade in order to lower prices."

Conflict of Civilizations

We gathered the following views from ideas in the paper "Conflict of Civilizations or Dialogue of Civilizations," by Salah al-Mukhtar, head of the Republic Center for International Studies.

One of the theories proposed to fill the ideological vacuum after the waning of the capitalist-communist conflict is the theory of a "clash of civilizations." The features of this theory were shaped by the American professor, Samuel Huntington, who served as adviser to President Jimmy Carter. In it he presents a pessimistic view of the future of international relations. He thinks that the collapse of the ideological struggle has opened the way for the emergence of various multiparty conflicts between different civilizations, especially between Western and Eastern civilizations.

A quick look at the bloody conflicts occurring today in the world is enough to show that Professor Huntington was not expressing an isolated academic point of view. Rather, he was preparing the way for a new universal strategy that President Bill Clinton's administration has adopted. Its central point is to gather whoever belongs to Western civilization into a front opposing the front of Islamic, Buddhist, and Orthodox Christian Eastern civilizations.

The theory of a clash of civilizations is wrong and unscientific for a number of fundamental reasons. First, it replaces the real causes of current conflicts—foreign interference for control and influence. Such interference exploits racial and religious formations, stirs them up, and pushes them toward conflict through causes related to the cultural and psychological formation of human groups.

The need to cover up the real causes of conflicts and crises motivates the incitement of cultural, national, and religious sentiments and their transformation into a framework for conflict. The proof of this is the fact that, although cultural, religious, and national differences have existed for thousands of years, the periods of cultural coexistence and interaction have been the most numerous and longest periods throughout history. This is conclusive proof that the real causes of the conflict are not the differences between civilizations,

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but the geopolitical needs of countries. The United States represents a vivid example of the phenomenon of shifting explanations of the conflict. Ideologically its conflict was with the Soviet Union. When the attempt to erect a new world order failed, America proposed the theory that the root of the conflict was related to civilizations.

Indicators of the Decade

In his paper, "A View of the Future of French-Iraqi Relations," Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Office of Foreign Relations in the Iraq national leadership, said: "The most important part of what we say is the state of international relations in what has been called the post-cold-war period or new world order. The beginnings of this period and the events that interacted during it have taken up the past 10 years. The United Nations has lost its credibility. It has become a tool used by certain countries, particularly America, against the freedom and independence of nations. As for the embargo, one can say that, Iraq having completely fulfilled its obligations under Section C of Resolution 687, Ekeus and America with him can no longer prove to the world that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations.

"Therefore, Iraq alone is no longer paying the price of the continued blockade against it, but many countries. Everyone is deeply convinced that Iraq is an important factor in regional accounts. It is not easy—indeed it is impossible—not to take Iraq into account and to work with it in the events, security, and future of the region."

Geostrategic Importance

In his paper, "Reality and Possibilities of French-Iraqi Relations," Dr. Ghazi Faysal, professor of political science at Saddam University, said:

"Iraqi-French dialogue rests on three basic elements that form the core of our joint interests: independence, development, and security. The foreign policy of both countries was based on the relation between diplomacy and strategy, between economics and oil, and between culture and science. Bilateral relations since 1970 have developed in accordance with this view. Iraq has geostrategic importance for Europe in general and for France in particular because Iraq's location enables it to effect a balance in power relations in the next century's most critical oil region.

"The economic difficulties confronting France, such as inflation, unemployment, and recession, will impede opportunities for growth and development and widen the circle of crises and violence, threatening the security of Europe. The solution lies in comprehensive cooperation with Iraq and the Arab world and in an orientation toward Asia and Africa in accordance with De Gaulle's principles to guarantee mutual rights.

"The interests of Europe and France in the Arab region parallel the interests of the Arab states in developing broad relations with Europe. This can be achieved: first, by balance, not hegemony, to prevent tension and conflicts; second, by cooperation, not mutual opposition, in the scientific and technological area; and third, by tolerance, not hostility, through a dialogue of civilizations."

Propagandizing for Middle-Eastism

We took the following notes on a paper by Dr. Hamid al-Jamili, professor of economics in the faculty of management and economics, on the methods of American hegemony over the world economy.

"The entire world is witnessing America's dangerous attempts to aim a fatal blow at international economic progress generally and the economic progress of the southern world in particular. The United States wants to solve its repeated economic crises and its historical crisis at the whole world's expense. It thereby wants to postpone confronting its financial, historical, and cultural crises and save its economy from the symptoms of feebleness and old age that have begun to creep into its joints.

"American hegemony over oil resources in the [Gulf Cooperatiion Council] GCC countries has blocked the path of the European Union and of rising forces such as Japan and Germany and has eliminated their position as an international power.

"Continued encouragement of regional wars and arms sales is the engine of the American economy. Forty percent of America's production is related to the operation of military industries and their attempts to propagandize for Middle-Eastism"

Taking Away a Civilization's Identity

We gathered the following analytical ideas from the paper "America's Attempts at World Cultural Hegemony," by the writer, researcher, and translator, Mrs. Nasirah al-Sa'dun.

"Instead of being a tool for culture in all its diversity to move between parts of the globe, satellites have been a tool of cultural imperialism and hegemony imposed by northern capital on the south. They have even begun to threaten the cultural existence of some northern countries in favor of the United States. European societies have been transformed from communities of culture into communities of consumption. The role of the intellectual has disappeared, replaced by the star who appears daily on the television screen.

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"All civilizations used to depend on cultural cross-fertilization, while preserving their identity, diversity, and respect for the other. They used to move with the movement of human beings. However, American culture, whose basis is the Anglo-Saxon culture that moved in waves of immigration, did not cross-fertilize with the civilizations that existed in America before the arrival of the immigrants. Instead, it deliberately destroyed what existed before it and exterminated the indigenous inhabitants.

"The summit of American hegemony emerged most clearly in what happened during the Mother of Battles. The West spread the name of "Gulf War" for it. The West did not say, for example, "Iraq War," as had previously been said about the Vietnam War. The name was meant to take away the name of Iraq in accordance with the imperialistic plot to suppress Iraq as a state, civilization, and people."

Rare Historical Moment

From the paper "Arab-French Relations: a View of Possible Futures," by Dr. Qays Muhammad Nuri, a political science professor at Baghdad University, we recorded the following expectations:

"We should not be wrong to say that the disturbance of the balance of powers has begun to affect even the diplomatic manners of the American administration. It not only affects the American position on Arab issues, but also touches on Europe's essential interests with regard to the future.

"Good intentions are not enough to rebuild the bridges that were cut by airplanes flying different flags, some of them recently considered among the best of friends.

"Today's world is interacting in accelerating ways. The next century is at the door. The remainder of the century in which we live forms only a limited margin. The decisive historical moment is hastening the birth of the bold, historic decision that will affect the stability and permanence of relations in accordance with sound, stable foundations, not passing, changing standards.

"Quite clearly, France is called upon to profit in a rare historical moment, but, at the same time, France cannot afford to fall into additional errors."

Balances of Stability and Dialogue

We took the following analytical notes on what Dr. Nadiyah al-Mukhtar, professor of political science at Saddam University, said in her paper, "France's Arab Policy After the Attack on Iraq":

"Being a country with experiences in opening dialogues with southern countries or groups of countries, France can undertake to open new dialogues for development purposes not only in the countries of the south, but also to serve the purposes of developing French economic institutions in particular or European ones in general.

"France's entry into the war against Iraq harmed French interests in the Arab homeland. The policy of direct confrontation, as stated by Jean-Pierre (Chufanman), will lead to a losing game for France in all cases. Oil and capital have become main variables in the process of international competition. French political goals are not the same as American and Israeli goals.

Therefore, Arab-French dialogue—and European dialogue, if possible—revolves around and is linked to economic interests and international policy. Above all, dialogue means international dealings in the language of persuasion and being persuaded."

Will France Say No?

Charles Saint-Prot is a well-known French intellectual and political figure. Ten years ago he published a book about President and Leader Saddam Husayn entitled "Saddam: De Gaulle of the Arabs" ["Saddam Hussein: un gaullisme arabe?"]. AL-'UBUR Supplement met Saint-Prot and conducted the following interview with him:

[AL-'UBUR] About 10 years ago you published a book about President Saddam (may God save him). After a decade of tremendous developments on the Iraqi, Arab, and international scene, how do you view President Saddam Husayn's leadership?

[Saint-Prot] Saddam Husayn and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir are the only two 20th century Arab leaders with a historical vision and profound analysis of the destiny of the Arab nation. They had aspirations for the Arab world, which they wanted to enter the modern age and to be able to achieve Arab unity and a powerful independent presence, exactly like General De Gaulle on the French scene.

Iraq under President Saddam Husayn's leadership became a country of great strength on the regional and international scene, a country that signifies hope to all the Arab peoples, some of whom are subject to political regimes with no aspirations, regimes that in fact are subject to imperialism and the foreigner. For all these reasons, I think that President Saddam Husayn is an adversary for the Americans because he is an obstacle in their path to spreading international hegemony. We know that in General De Gaulle's days the Americans stood against him and encouraged strikes in France in an attempt to damage General De Gaulle's government and create problems for it. In the same way, the Americans

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are trying to carry out their plots against Iraq. They have tried to destroy the country, change its national government, divide it, and place it in a position of dependency, as is the condition of some Arab regimes. That was the goal of the war, which was provoked after a series of plots in which many Arab states participated. But the conspiracy this time also aims at helping America dominate the region of the Middle East, which contains so many objects that America covets. But this plot, which took the form of a sordid military attack, has failed, despite the amount of mass destruction and the suffering of the Iraqi people; for Iraq was able to rise up and continue to preserve its honor and independence and to rebuild what the attack destroyed in a uniquely beautiful example of solidarity between a leader and his people. Saddam Husayn is a symbol not only of Iraq, but of the Arab nation.

Iraq's name will remain radiant on the pages of history because Iraq is the name of a rising country that took the responsibility of mapping the right way to freedom, independence, self-esteem, and even immortality.

[AL-'UBUR] Can France confront American hegemony with a clear, precise, and profound European position, particularly with regard to the embargo imposed on Iraq?

[Saint-Prot] Certainly France should confront this American hegemony. France's traditional policy flows from the fact of confronting the forces of hegemony. This was the case in the time of the French kings, and it remained so until the time of De Gaulle. But can France always carry out this task? Yes, it can if its leaders want to. France's confronting American hegemony is a question of desire. If I wanted to give this confrontation a grade, I should say that it is mediocre, though I deeply believe that there are moments when one must say no. France possesses all the assets to help it say no to single hegemony.

Furthermore, France, as a permanent member of the Security Council, is a diplomatic power with influence on the international scene. In short, France has all the means to take a stand peacefully against American hegemony. For this to happen, there need only be leaders who proceed with General De Gaulle's thinking and policy. I hope that the right president will come (after the French presidential elections), so that the position will be resolute and France will return to her position.

France must demonstrate its desire to do everything necessary to lift the unjust embargo imposed by America alone. France should strengthen its relations of friendship with Iraq, so that these relations can be the hinge of France's relations with the Arab world. This is a pressing necessity in order to make the dialogue between north and south and between civilizations succeed.

[AL-'UBUR] Since you have mentioned the dialogue between north and south and between civilizations, what is your response to Samuel Huntington's racist chauvinist assertion that the West should develop its military strength and maintain its superiority, so that it remains a military and economic power capable of protecting its interests from non-Western civilizations?

[Saint-Prot] Samuel Huntington's ideas are nothing but an American ideology. They signify a rejection of dialogue between north and south and stress the ideology of Western hegemony over the countries of the Third World. This contradicts France's traditional policy based on rapprochement, exchanges, and friendship between the West and other civilizations.

France Strong When Iraq Is Strong

AL-'UBUR interviewed the French professor Pierre (Dabzi), professor of political science at the Sorbonne and former ambassador in Africa, to learn his view of American hegemony and the strategic importance of French-Iraqi relations. He gave AL-'UBUR the following political analysis:

"American hegemony over the area (Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Turkey) is as clear as the sun. This creates a state of imbalance. The political and economic implications of the concept of hegemony impact on France in particular and Europe in general. If we want to create balance in the region, there must be a strong Iraq to suppress antagonisms and create stability.

"If we ask why France has not taken or is not taking a decisive, unambiguous position in the face of this hegemony, we answer that, although France is a country powerful enough for such a role, France still continues to follow a policy and path of aid. Frankly, France will be more powerful in resisting hegemony the more powerful Iraq is in opposing the same American hegemony. Since France is part of Europe, it would be better for the latter for Iraq to arise as a wall to curb America's efforts to spread its sole influence over the region. The continuing blockade on Iraq due to American insistence falls into the framework of a settling of accounts between America and Iraq, because the blockade has now lost its whole legal rationale and has become an illegal measure. For humanitarian and political reasons, we, therefore, are trying to lift the cruel embargo that is causing the Iraqi people great damage. As for French-Iraqi relations, I think that the form France's policy with Iraq will take will be defined mostly by a policy of progress and strength for Iraq after the lifting of the embargo.

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"For all the reasons we have mentioned, France wants to help and indeed has an obligation to help; but France, being a part of Europe, is not free even as regards its foreign policy.

"I affirm that France is definitely against the embargo. Perhaps her position in this regard will be clearer and more profound after the report that Ekeus is to deliver this April. I would point out that French elections are having an effect on the nature of the French position."

Cultural Imperialism Threatens All Civilizations

In his paper, "Dialogue of Civilizations," Pierre (Birsir) said: "We must work for human rights out of loyalty to the pioneers who defended them during the past two centuries. I do not await an international state like the United Nations in which democracy and freedom at the cultural and scientific level will be merely a tactic for human rights. Indeed, searching for the model of tomorrow's society is better than talking about old rules or talking about hegemony through science. One must search for common principles.

"I do not think there can be human rights without recognizing the right to life, the right of peoples to development, and the right to participate in making decisions (as when workers have the right to make decisions in their workplace), and without recognizing the existence of a neutral secular state.

"I can enumerate many of the activities of the French Society for Human Rights for which I work. However, I must say that my presence here is a sign of respect for cultures and civilizations. With the great progress of science and the power of money, we are all threatened today by a cultural imperialism that does not announce itself or its name. There is danger from this imperialistic culture.

"Defenders of animals speak about the disappearance of a species of animals. What about the disappearance of cultures, civilizations, and languages? If civilizations die and one civilization survives, what can dialogue between civilizations mean?

It is not the Japanese, the English, the Russians, or the French naturally. Who, then, is practicing extermination? It is the United States that wants all peoples to disappear. At the same time, we do not have the right to see any film or hear any song but an American one."

France Has Not Forgotten Iraq

The well-known Frenchman of Arab origin Ahmad Shakir, president of the Society for the Development of French-Iraqi relations, told us that the French intellectuals and writers who participated in the symposium had a broad and deep acquaintance with relations between France and Iraq and the joint interests of the two countries.

He stated that many French political and economic officials want Iraq to regain its position and the embargo to be lifted.

Ahmad Shakir stressed that Frenchmen who believe in Iraq have not forgotten the solid relations between the countries before the war against Iraq. Contrary to what is said about the French having weak memories, he affirmed that they have never forgotten how Iraq rushed to France's aid in the difficult historical circumstances through which France passed.

He said: "For the first time in four years, we see parliamentarians, journalists, and well-known French personalities working publicly in the media for lifting the embargo on Iraq."

Charles Saint-Prot told us that the historic turn in French-Arab relations was the year 1967—the well-known position that Paris adopted. Afterward, President De Gaulle affirmed the necessity of selecting "outstanding Arab negotiators," and Iraq was qualified for such a selection.

After the 1968 revolution, according to Saint-Prot, "Iraqi-French cooperation developed and became a firm reality in our foreign policy. This development would not have gone so far internationally had it not been for the directives of President Saddam Husayn." He added: "We, therefore, must know the reason that made America try to destroy Iraq."

Michel (Balghurn) said that before and during the war against Iraq, France had hastened to line up with the United States. He asked why the embargo was imposed on Iraq, for whose sake, and for how long. He explained that the embargo today has no legal justifications, now that Iraq has abided by the most important resolutions of the United Nations. The United Nations knows that Iraq has indeed abided by the content of Resolution 687, which links the lifting of the embargo to the extent of the Iraqi Government's cooperation with the special UN committee. Ekeus has indicated many times that the committee is operating with clear cooperation from the Iraqi side, that the monitoring system has been put into operation, and that Iraq has carried out all the demands of the committee.

Therefore, according to (Balghurn), Ekeus's report clearly confirms that Iraq is respecting its obligations to the international community. Why then is the embargo continuing?

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France Will Return to De Gaulle's Policy

Philippe [de] Saint Robert, professor of political science at the Sorbonne, contributed a paper on General De Gaulle's Arab policy to the symposium. He gave AL-'UBUR the following political analysis:

"I think that the war (the attack on Iraq) was imposed on us. Many in France believe that the United States is more dangerous to us than to you and that the "new world order" is harming you as it harms us. We hope that the coming French elections will bring France to her old policy that goes back originally to the policy of General De Gaulle.

"As for an unambiguous French policy for Iraq and for lifting the embargo, the current situation in France is causing the country to be preoccupied with finishing the stages of the presidential election. The results of the election certainly will have a decisive impact on the nature and shape of the position to be adopted in France's policy on the subject of Iraq.

"No one can hide the fact that Iraq has carried out all its obligations toward the Security Council's resolutions. I think the embargo will be lifted this year. Its continuance is a clear violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.

"I can say that the role of the media in misleading French public opinion, which originally was against the war (the attack on Iraq)—this misleading media role hid the fact of opposition by important French personalities such as Michel Joubert, (Chufanman), and others, who were against igniting the war.

"Certainly we will write in the French newspapers and talk to the media and from university pulpits to make French intellectuals more aware of the importance of French-Iraqi relations."

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Peres: Golan Never Historically Part of Nation

TA0206174895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jun 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on 2 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has reiterated that the Golan Heights is indeed Syrian territory. Peres said that now there is a chance to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria; however, it remains unclear what price President Hafiz al-Asad is prepared to pay for peace. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returned to Israel this afternoon from the United States and immediately met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss developments on the Syrian track. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik spoke with Foreign Minister Peres:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] Mr. Peres, are there indeed contingency plans for the evacuation of settlements on the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I tell you that this is all nonsense. I assume that such plans exist, although I have not seen them and am not familiar with them. I consider it only natural that certain bodies are preparing such plans; however, there is nothing concrete, and this does not appear on the agenda. No one is discussing this matter. That is all I know.

[Sukenik] But do you think that the settlements will ultimately be evacuated, perhaps within a relatively short time?

[Peres] I do not want to make any predictions. I do not feel that predictions are called for at this time. We must launch serious negotiations on the security issues, and then we will see.

[Sukenik] But I assume that the evacuation of settlements features in the plans formulated by Mr. Rabin and yourself.

[Peres] You can assume whatever you want. We have decided that there is no need to mention or discuss this matter now.

[Sukenik] Did you really say or do you believe that the Golan Heights is Syrian territory?

[Peres] This is a historical fact. The Golan Heights was never historically considered a part of the State of Israel. Had we not been attacked from the Golan Heights, we would never have gone up there. The real advantage of the negotiations with Syria is that it should be the last battle, as they say, for peace. It should constitute the final peace in the Middle East or, in other words, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Peres on B-H, PLO Decision, Likud Rift, Iran

TA0306135295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Hecht on 3 June; place not given; from the "Weekly Newsreel" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hecht] Good day to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good day.

[Hecht] With your permission, sir, I would like to take a look at what is happening in the former Yugoslavia, where today's most important news story appears to be happening. We just heard that French President Chirac has spoken with President Clinton. Russia is concerned, the NATO ministers are meeting today, everyone is talking but no one seems to have any solution to the chaos created by the Serbs.

[Peres] That is true. The problem is not the level at which to hold talks but the kind of method used to make plans. It must be one of two: If the United Nations is not prepared to intervene in Serbia or Bosnia, then it should not send troops; once soldiers are dispatched, they cannot be left there as hostages.

In my opinion, this is the greatest crisis the United Nations has experienced in recent years. Its limitations have been revealed to everyone. Please note that we have been very careful not to rely on UN military forces or UN personnel. We never relied on them in the past and shall not count on them in the future. Even in the Sinai Peninsula, we set up a multinational and not an international force. The superpowers are now facing a serious credibility crisis. Someone said that there are no superpowers left, there are only supermarkets. This is a very grave matter, because such phenomena in which people are murdered and killed, regardless of whether they are Muslim, Christian, Bosnian, Serb, or Croat, must be stopped at any price.

[Hecht] Mr. Peres, you mentioned the United Nations, but I must ask you whether you feel this has any ramifications for our own region? We are at the beginning of a very dangerous process, sponsored by the United States, which is itself demonstrating weakness in Bosnia. Does the weakness of the superpowers not give you pause to reconsider things, sir?

[Peres] The problem is not the weakness of the superpowers but rather the composite created by Tito. If there is any conclusion to be drawn here, it is not to create

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a similar situation back home. Neither the United Nations nor the superpowers will rescue us. If we start mixing peoples, much as they mixed Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians, in one huge concoction, with different peoples living in each other's backyard, then we will have a Bosnia. I have already said that politics is like cooking: You can make an omelet out of eggs, but you cannot make eggs out of an omelet. What we are trying to do is to prevent a Bosnian-type situation. Let us not put the onus on the superpowers. We must first of all make a clear, real choice and put an end to all the stories from the past that have no basis in reality. [passage omitted]

[Hecht] We just heard that the PLO leaders have warned that if an agreement is not reached with them by 1 July, they will resume the intifadah. What is your reaction to that?

[Peres] Look, this is an example of how important it is for the media to be precise. It was not the leaders of the PLO; it was only Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. He has a big mouth which can be heard from one end of the world to the other. He is not the leadership of the PLO. He always uses sharp language and makes no impression on anybody. His statements have absolutely no import. We will not do anything under the threat of a renewed intifadah. If 'Abd-Rabbuh seeks to impress his audience, let him. The Israeli Government is not operating out of fear but on the basis of its convictions so as not to create a Bosnia-type situation. In my opinion, it is a waste of time to quote 'Abd-Rabbuh. He is famous for making such statements; this is not the first time. What do you mean by PLO leaders? You should have said 'Abd-Rabbuh. Those acquainted with the field know exactly who 'Abd-Rabbuh is.

[Hecht] With your permission, let us move on to domestic politics. It appears that David Levi and his supporters are resigning from the Likud. How do you think that will affect the Israeli political map?

[Peres] First of all, until this actually happens, I do not want to make any predictions. Israeli politics bring surprises every day. You have something new all the time. I am not an astrologist. I do not deal in such matters, nor do they interest me. What I want is for Israel to make real and courageous decisions. I want people to stop pretending that nothing has happened while mouthing the slogans of yesteryear. Today there is a possibility to make peace with our neighbors because today — and I am not saying that this will also be the case in the future — they do not have any military option. When people assert that President al-Asad has abandoned the military option, they are really saying he gave up something that he does not have. There is no Russian patron to supply Syria with arms. There is no Arab coalition. Jordan has made peace with Israel. Egypt has made peace with Israel. We are conducting peace negotiations with the Palestinians. On the other hand, we are facing a real and terrible danger from radical Islamic fundamentalism, which is trying to gain nuclear weapons. We must organize ourselves to confront this threat, and it is about time that Israelis start thinking not in terms of hills or mountains but in terms of real strategy. Our country now has an unprecedented opportunity, but it is also facing unprecedented dangers. It is impossible to constantly live in the past and nurse old grievances. And look who is admonishing us: those who gave up all the Sinai, to the very last grain of sand; those who evacuated settlements; those who pushed the Golan Law through the Knesset in one day, exploiting the fact that Mr. Rabin and I were abroad. What is this?

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 3 June carries an interview with Foreign Minister Peres by anchorman Adi Talmor, recorded on 3 June, on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program. When asked whether he is concerned by recent reports of a rapprochement between Tehran and Baghdad, Peres replies: "I am definitely concerned, and do I not believe this is the end of the story. We may be facing even more unpleasant surprises." Peres goes on to explain: "Every Arab state that does not have relations with Israel is a candidate for joining this terrible camp, which is the worst alliance since the collapse of communism, even worse than the communist threat because communism did not start out with nuclear weapons. Here, in broad daylight, we have a country that has an abundance of oil and has no need of nuclear energy; a country that has plentiful resources of natural gas, which is cheaper than nuclear fuel. Such a poor country, whose people are virtually starving, is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in building nuclear reactors. What for? To have fun? And the Russians are selling them equipment, and the Chinese are supplying them." When asked whether Israel can do anything to stop this, Peres replies: "We can do something. It is not true that we cannot. We can do a lot but are not doing enough. First of all, we can extinguish all the fires of war between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries. We must focus on what counts." Asked whether there is a possibility of Israel launching a military strike against Iran, Peres replies: "Look, all this is just talk. Did our attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor prevent the Iraqis from developing centrifuges? Could we strike at these centrifuges? Let us speak the straight truth here and set conventional wisdom aside. What saved us from the Iraqi nuclear threat was Saddam's idiocy in invading Kuwait, which compelled the United States to move against Iraq. Without this, one can attack a nuclear reactor only to discover what has just been revealed in Iran: Tehran

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seeks to develop nuclear weapons through the use of centrifuges, which can be hidden in basements. All these simplistic remarks merely show that people do not examine things thoroughly."]

[Hecht] With your permission, sir, one more question about internal matters. The Labor Party convention, slated for 5 June, will probably discuss the direct elections bill. Will you support Yosi Beilin, who is basically expressing your own positions, or will you back the prime minister, who is seeking to postpone the debate?

[Peres] First of all, I have no need to do either. The prime minister and I agreed that we will discuss the elections format at the next convention, because there are real problems. The reason we are putting off discussing these problems until the next convention instead of dealing with them now is because diverting our attention from the peace process — which I view as the most important and crucial matter — at this time and getting bogged down in an internal, sensationalist, Likud-style dispute is something that I am quite prepared to put off until the beginning of next year, when the party will convene. Until then, the prime minister and I have agreed to look for ways to resolve future problems.

[Hecht] Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister.

Rabin, Peres Address Convention on Peace Process

TA0506111395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Report by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a short summary of the speeches made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Labor Party Central Committee meeting today. The key or at least the more interesting part of their speeches focused on the political process and especially the upcoming negotiations with Syria. Let us first hear what Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had to say:

[Begin Rabin recording] Therefore, we shall put the matter to the public in a national referendum, which will be decided by a simple majority. I believe the Israeli people seek peace. When the Israeli people see the draft of a peace treaty with Syria, even if this necessitates a painful withdrawal, I believe they will support it. If I need any proof of that, it is that those who are opposed to this are demanding that the issue be decided by a special majority. Are they afraid of the majority of the people? Cowards! It is inconceivable that suddenly, with regard to one issue, a special majority is deemed necessary. I would like to remind you all that if the Likud's proposal to the Knesset stipulating the need for a majority of 80 Knesset members [MK's] had been endorsed prior to the peace treaty with Egypt, there would have been no agreement. Only 74 MK's voted in favor of the agreement in its first hearing, with the rest supporting the treaty only in the second vote. [end recording]

Shim'on Peres, while using very precise language, actually referred to the same thing and vowed to uphold the party's continued unity. Here are Shim'on Peres' remarks on the political process and on the Syrian track. Every word here is important.

[Begin Peres recording] If there is any rejection of peace, then let others be responsible for it. We want to be sincere and at peace with ourselves. Friends, we know the truth. Anyone seeking to retain all of the Golan Heights must give up all the peace. There is an opportunity, and I would also like to address the election issue now. In my opinion, the seven months from today until the end of 1995 constitute a crucial period with regard to the chances of completing the peace process. Let us not hesitate, procrastinate, make excuses, or step backwards with closed eyes. I am telling you that we must defer all the less important issues to a later date. Today, we must lead Israel out of the state of war in which it has been fighting for its very survival for almost 50 years into a battle for peace which will permit us as a people and a state to express our real values: on the domestic front, equality for all Israel's Arab and Jewish citizens; and on the international front, peace with all our neighbors. [end recording]

Lebanese Appeal for Talks Seen as 'Encouraging Move'

TA0506083695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Jun 95 pp 1, 3

[Report Moti Bassok and Drora Perl]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Over the weekend, Israel took note, with a some degree of surprise, of Lebanon's public appeal to launch discussions with Israel parallel to the Israeli-Syrian officers talks in Washington.

During his upcoming Middle East tour, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may attempt to restart the Israel-Lebanese talks, after a year's suspension.

It is obvious that the Lebanese statement was made with Syria's knowledge, and Jerusalem views it as an encouraging move on the eve of the arrival here of Christopher's envoy, Dennis Ross.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a meeting in private upon Peres'

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return from the United States last Friday. The two exchanged views and assessments in anticipation of Christopher's visit. Peres briefed Rabin on his talks with Ross and Christopher. Israel would like the officers talks to resume at the level of chiefs of staff but believes that Damascus would rather the talks open at the level of majors general. While in Washington, Peres heard that the Syrians were very disappointed with Ehud Baraq's conduct in the chiefs of staff meeting last December. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Party Heads To Visit, To Show Support

TA0206175495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian political figures will visit Israel for the first time in approximately one week. These officials publicly support the peace treaty between the two countries.

Our political correspondent has learned that the visitors are the heads of the al-Ahrar party. The Jordanians approached the Israeli Embassy in Amman and asked to visit Israel in order to demonstrate their support for the agreement. They are scheduled to meet with senior Israeli officials in Jerusalem.

IDF To Start Work on Redeployment 'Infrastructure'

TA0506054495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will start work today on an infrastructure for its redeployment on the West Bank. Israel radio has learned that work will begin on the brigade headquarters and several bases, as well as preparations for absorbing these bases within the pre-1967 line. Israel captured the West Bank in the Six-Day War of 1967.

Senior IDF sources say that eight months will be needed from the start of building until the redeployment is completed, and it will cost some $330 million. The IDF's redeployment has been a bone of contention between Israel and the PLO, and it is also a condition for holding Palestinian elections.

'Terrorist' Killed in Clash With IDF in Hebron

'Murder Squad' Said Active in Hebron Area

TA0206143595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, said that the terrorist killed in Hebron this afternoon was one of the men most wanted by the authorities and was a member of a murderous squad which operated in the Hebron area.

Maj. Gen. Biran told our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that he believes the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] knows of only one murder squad that is still active in the Hebron Hills, although there may be additional squads the authorities do not know about. Maj. Gen. Biran also reported that five people suspected of helping fugitives were arrested in Halhul today.

The commander of the Hebron sector said that the wanted terrorist killed this morning in a clash with the IDF had been involved in the murder of Israeli civilians. [passage omitted]

Dead Man Identified; Curfew Lifted

TA0306153895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The identity of the wanted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist killed yesterday when soldiers fired rockets at a house in which he was hiding has been established. He is Ahmad Yarmur. Security forces say Yarmur, who has been on the army's wanted list for more than a year, was one of three leaders of Hamas in Hebron. He is suspected of being responsible for the deaths of at least nine Israelis and injuring several others.

Meanwhile, the curfew on Hebron was lifted this morning.

Hamas Demands Inquiry Into Death

NC0506122695 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, June 5 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas called Monday [5 June] for the Red Cross to examine the body of a militant who died when the Israeli army blew up his home.

In a statement received by AFP, the fundamentalist group termed the killing a "war crime" and asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to set up a committee of inquiry.

Troops used anti-tank rockets to destroy a house in which Ahmad Yarmur had holed up in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Friday.

The army described 25-year-old Yarmur as one of the most wanted Moslem militants and said he took part in the murder of two Jewish settlers in the town on March 19.

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The Hamas statement said he had been "buried alive" and the Israeli authorities had kept the body "to hide this crime".

Yarmur's family identified the body on Sunday, the army said.

'Wide-Scale' Hamas Network Uncovered in E. Jerusalem

TA0506045595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces have uncovered a wide-scale organization of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in East Jerusalem, the Old City, al-Tur, R'as al-'Amud, Sur Bahir, Abu-Dis, and al-'Ayzariyah. They are suspected of reaching an advanced stage of planning serious terrorist attacks. These reportedly include blowing up a car bomb in Jerusalem, murdering Jews, opening fire at roadblocks, placing explosive charges at places where IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers gather, and more. The arrival of the car bomb was foiled by the closure of the Gaza Strip. Some 45 Hamas members are said to have been arrested and their interrogation continues.

Military sources say the man behind the Jerusalem network was Muhammad Dayif, known as Abu-Khalid, a resident of the Gaza Strip. Dayif is believed to be responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Corporal Nahshon Wachsman.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 June on page 1 carries a related report by Alon Pinkas and Jon Immanuel, adding that the arrested Hamas members are "suspected of belonging to 'Izz- al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas's military wing."]

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German Government Delegation Begins Official Visit

Prime Minister on Reinforcing Ties

JN0406173495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian side, headed by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; and the German side, headed by Germany's Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, held a round of official talks at the prime minister's residence today. Details are in the following report:

At the outset of the session, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir praised the relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany and spoke about the need to reinforce prospects of cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields. The prime minister stressed the importance of the German role in supporting the peace process and developing the region, noting Jordan's willingness to cooperate in this field. He reviewed the stages of development in the peace process in the region and the important Jordanian role in this process. He also talked about Jordan's position based on the importance of achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace under which peoples will enjoy a better climate of stability, security, and prosperity.

For his part, the German chancellor expressed his appreciation of and admiration for Jordan's achievements under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn despite the regional circumstances. He also expressed his happiness at visiting the kingdom and his thanks for the good hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation. He praised the relations of cooperation between Jordan and his country in all fields, noting Germany's willingness to help Jordan in the development fields and to support the peace process.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means to reinforce prospects of cooperation in various fields. They also reviewed a number of issues of common interest, foremost of which are developments in the region, the peace process, and prospects of economic and regional cooperation in the Middle East during the peace stage.

Moreover, the two sides stressed the importance of joint action to reinforce democracy, development, and peace and to raise the standard of living which leads to regional development and creates further stability, security, and prosperity.

The two sides also focused on bilateral relations, especially in the fields of development and economy. The Jordanian side presented Jordanian projects and plans on the local and regional levels as well as plans aimed at achieving national development and building intrinsic powers.

The Jordanian side reviewed economic developments, the economic reform program Jordan is implementing, and the accomplishments that have been achieved, especially in terms of reducing the deficit in the balance of payments and increasing economic growth. The Jordanian side said that despite these accomplishments, the Jordanian economy is still facing two main problems; namely, debts and unemployment. In this regard, the German chancellor stressed his country's interest in helping Jordan confront and reduce these problems.

The Jordanian side also talked about the steps taken to prepare for the international conference on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa. Moreover, The two sides reviewed water projects which Jordan will implement after it has restored its water rights and which will enable it to make water available in various areas of the kingdom through dams and distribution networks. [passage omitted]

King Holds Talks With Kohl

JN0406175495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl held a meeting at Raghadan Palace this evening. Discussion during the meeting focused on bilateral relations, and developments in the peace process in the region, the European role, particularly the German role, in supporting the peace process and helping the region's countries in their development and economic plans. His Majesty King Husayn bestowed on Chancellor Kohl the studded al-Nahdah medal of the highest order.

Expanded talks between the two sides began a short while ago. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, foreign minister; Basil Jardanah, finance minister; Dr. Salih Irshaydat, minister of water and irrigation; Samir Qa'war, minister of transportation; and His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary. The talks were attended on the German side by the spokesman for the Federal Republic of Germany and a number of parliament members accompanying Chancellor Kohl.

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King Husayn, Kohl Hold News Conference

JN0406202295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Jun 95

["Excerpts" from a joint news conference by King Husayn and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 4 June; from the "News at Ten" program — recorded; Kohl speaks in German with passage-by-passage translation into English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Husayn] Germany and Jordan have enjoyed friendship and a relationship based on mutual respect, cooperation, and, most of all, understanding between us respectively over the many years that have passed, and, in terms of Jordan, in terms of this country, during some of the most difficult times we lived through and faced.

Chancellor Kohl is a man we admire and respect. His first visit was in 1983 when our world was different to what it is today. But I believe that not only Germany, but the world has been fortunate in having him at the helm and the position of responsibility in Germany during these times.

We have celebrated with our brethren and friends the unity of their country, the changes, the promise of a future which is bright. And amongst the friends we admire and respect in this world, Germany has a unique position and, to me, Federal Chancellor Kohl occupies the same position.

[Kohl] We Germans over all those years, throughout all those difficult years, were able to assure ourselves that in this region we had friends in your country and we were confident that we could rely on you. It was with great courage and great wisdom that you, together with others, initiated important steps.

[AFP Amman Bureau Chief] This is Randah Habib from Agence France Presse. You talked of tangible proofs for peace and the effect on the people of this peace. Would you tell me if you discussed or if you've taken any steps concerning the Jordanian debt towards Germany?

[Kohl] We also talked about this, yes. Because when we talk about debt relief, I think we are second to none. We are almost world champions in this respect although, unfortunately, not all that many people acknowledge that or pay tribute to it. But, in the Club of Paris and in many other institutions, we have done quite a lot in this respect. And we will certainly do more in the course of the process that I mentioned. Our interest is, my personal interest is, very clearly to see to it that this becomes a flourishing region and Jordan is an important part of this region. Now what I am going to say now may sound a bit brutal or a bit too blunt. If this region will not be brought peace, and if this terrible scenario that many people depict for this event will actually come true, then — and I must say I do not believe in them — then if that comes about, it will become much more costly for everyone concerned, also for the German taxpayer.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, what kind of further help do you expect, specific help do you expect from the German side in the peace process now? Are there any specific projects you've discussed with the chancellor?

[Husayn] I believe that the dialogue is not starting now. It has started some while ago on a number of possibilities and hopes that we have in this era of peace-building, having achieved peace and ratified the peace treaty between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel. And obviously, we will count on our friends to be with us and they have assured us that they will help us and support us in the times ahead as we do regarding our friends throughout the world, the European Community — and Germany stands tall amongst them — and the United States, and Japan, and Canada, and the rest of the world. As you know, we are preparing for an economic conference here of great importance, a follow up on the one that preceded it in Casablanca towards the end of the year. And by that time, we believe we would have had before us the opportunity to speak more specifically of the projects that are possible and feasible to bring about the change in the quality of life of people. not only in Jordan but in the region.

[Correspondent, in German followed by interpreter's translation into English] This is a Jordanian question which was asked in German though. Have you been able to give any sort of financial commitments as regards the implementation of the water projects already?

[Kohl] A few months ago, Crown Prince Hasan and the Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres paid us a visit in Bonn. And Commissioner (Marin) who is in charge of these issues in the European Union, in the European Commission, was present too at this meeting. At this opportunity, we discussed and concluded discussions about the possibilities to finance this study. And afterall, this study can be seen as a sort of precondition or as a first step or route to discussions about further financing of the projects. And I am quite clear in my mind that if the net result of the study that, indeed, these projects are feasible and should be carried out, and I have no doubt about it that this will be the result of this study, then I think we will also be able to agree on financing.

Obviously, it is only reasonable to have as one's counterpart, here the European Union. But over and above the financing carried out by the European Union, there will certainly be need for additional funds coming

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from a number of other countries. But, I do think that this quite possible, quite feasible. And I would like to remind all of us that whenever you hear financing is carried out by the European Union, do not forget that 28 percent of that burden is assumed by the federal government, by Germany. So, the Germans will always be in on that. But the project as such, to say this once again, I think is of a very very unusual importance. And it's very easy to find a reason why I consider that. And that is why this will be carried out, this project.

King Praises 'Deep Ties' at Banquet

JN0506114395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jun 95

[Speech by King Husayn at a dinner banquet in honor of FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Amman on 4 June — recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Excellency, honored guests, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you and your accompanying delegation to Jordan not only because of the high regard that my country holds for Germany, but also on a personal level because of the deepest respect and admiration that I have for an old and cherished friend.

Your presence here, amongst us, on your second visit to Jordan is the clearest possible confirmation of Germany's commitment to peace in the Middle East. Moreover, I would like to pay tribute to your excellency's leadership role in a highly dramatic period of Germany and Europe's recent history as exemplified by your country's reunification and the healing of old wounds during the 50th commemoration of V-E earlier this year.

We were there to celebrate 50 years of peace. Last year in October, Jordan put an end to almost 50 years of conflict with Israel. It is our fervent hope that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, along with Jordan's deep and unshakable commitment to democracy, will provide fruitful models for others in the region to draw on.

But, in order for peace to take hold with deep and lasting roots, substantial economic and social development of the entire region is of the utmost importance. Governments may sign treaties but peoples make peace with one another, and the people of this region must be made to feel real and tangible benefits that significantly improve their everyday lives in order to expedite the healing of old wounds. More than this, they must be made to feel that they matter, and that they have a voice in the determination of their future. It is this that underscores Jordan's commitment to a just, comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our treaty with Israel was ratified, our agreements honored. Now, peace-building is beginning. We have much to do for our people. For this, we will need help from our friends and all who support peace such as Germany and the European Union. Our mission, that of peace building, is a sacred one and we will not be deterred from achieving it because the security and well-being of present and future generations are at stake, and for this, there can be no compromise.

Germany is famous for its feats of engineering and, here in Jordan, we are reminded of this by the historic German-built Hejaz Railway begun almost 90 years as stretching from Damascus to Medina. Furthermore, since the establishment of ties between our two countries in 1957, Germany has continuously demonstrated its friendship to Jordan in very feral and generous terms. Germany has stood by Jordan's side through difficult times, and we highly value Germany's commitment to assist us in our endeavors to transform this area into a developed, prosperous, and open one so nations will feel the real difference between the pains of confrontation and the benefits of peace.

In welcoming you to our ancient land, Your Excellency, we honor the deep ties that bind our two peoples, our nations, and so, in the name of my Jordanian family, I raise my glass to you and to Germany with the deepest respect and admiration. [applause]

Kohl Addresses Banquet

JN0506120495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jun 95

[Speech by FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by King Husayn in Amman on 4 June — recorded, in German with passage-by-passage translation into English; transcribed from English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesty and Excellencies; ladies and gentlemen: As it is only suitable on such occasions, and as it is also in keeping with protocol, obviously, I brought you a speech here, and you have a translation of the speech under your plate. But I hope that you will understand that I leave this prepared speech aside for the moment, and make a few remarks that come from my heart. The first feeling that I would like to give vent to is a feeling of great and deep friendship, the friendship that we in Germany feel for your country, and a feeling of respect that we have for the courage and the wisdom that you have proved over so many years. The third point is I would like to talk to you a little bit about our own experiences.

Actually, this came to me when you spoke about the events of 1945, of the events of 50 years ago, and the 50 years that also you experienced here in this

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region, and the 50 years that the Israelis experienced; and the heading, really, is, and all these feelings can be summed up by saying there is a yearning for peace. Those were difficult days for us, Germans. Those were difficult days for us, Germans, around May 8, because we remembered the events of 50 years ago, and the world remembered, and we remembered the events of 60 years ago, and we remembered the horrors that were perpetrated in the name of the German people. However, we have learned, the Germans, last but not least, due to our own guilt what it means to lose peace and freedom. And that is something that we have not yet learned from books. It is not theoretical knowledge. We learned it from life. If you were to ask around this table, and ask your German guests what sort of personal experience they have, each and every one will have a different one, and a different lesson that he or she has learned. I would say almost each and every one of us has lost in one of the two or the two World Wars close relatives.

My brother was killed at the age of 19 towards the end of the Second World War. Then, and there are some of us who are refugees, my wife, for example. Others lost all their property during the bombing raids. And then, there are others who probably made the worst experience of all of us, those who lost their relatives and the family in the Nazi concentration camps. So that means that when we talk about peace, we know exactly what this word means, and we know exactly what the lack of peace means, what war means. And this is why in our hearts as in our minds, this is why we understand the yearning of the people in Jordan, in Israel, and among the Palestinians, and in the whole of the region, this yearning to finally come to peace.

And history has taught us that this great mind was right when he said that peace is actually an instrument of justice. And this is why it is now that we have to do it, now that we have to bring it about. And I do not think that in this region we have time to postpone this to the next generation. So, and we, Your Majesty, see our role in contributing to this within our possibilities, together with all those who also have goodwill, too. So, it is my wish that all of those who are engaged in this work of peace may be blessed by God, and there may be men and women who have courage and who make the necessary decisions.

I would like to raise my glass to this, and I would also like to express our sincere wish in drinking to your health, and to her majesty the queen, and to friendship between our two peoples.

King Husayn, Rabin, Kohl Hold Tripartite Meeting

King Welcomes Rabin, Kohl

TA0506082995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Address by King Husayn on the occasion of the tripartite meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the border crossing at Naharayim — live, in English with simultaneous translation into Hebrew; transcribed from English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dear friends: This is a great moment for Jordanians to welcome on the sovereign land of Jordan my fellow shepherd of the peace process and my good friend, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and for both of us to welcome one of the greatest men of our times, a dear friend, the federal chancellor of Germany, who has honored us with a visit to Amman yesterday, who is with us at this unique site today, and who will continue later on his visit to the State of Israel.

I believe that no place illustrates the fact that we are at peace, that after years and years of suffering and losses and misery and despair, peace has finally come to be a reality between two neighbors: Jordan and Israel. It was the result of common efforts, serious negotiations, and a commitment to the cause of peace for our peoples and for all the generations to come, peace between the children of Abraham and their descendants for all time. It is our hope that this peace between our two countries will be a cornerstone in the comprehensive peace that this area hopefully will enjoy in the near future. It is a legacy that we will leave behind for our peoples to guard and protect. This land has returned to Jordan at this very important site, as have other areas, and now we have an international boundary which is guarded and protected, as is peace, without any foreign observers or UN presence or any other presence from any part of the world. It is guarded in trust and in confidence by both our countries and our people.

Our dream is to see this valley become the valley of peace, to see the development of all its resources to the benefit of our peoples from the north to the extreme south, on the Gulf, on the Red Sea. Water is obviously one of the most important needs of human beings and for everything to do with them. It is our hope that these two rivers, al-Yarmuk and the Jordan, in terms of what is our water shared together, our right, that these resources will be utilized to the best possible degree in the future, that there will not be wastage of this precious resource, and that it will come to meet the needs of the region as it has already now.

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Beyond that, it is a pleasure for us to meet here in friendship, to welcome Federal Chancellor Kohl on his visit to Jordan, the second one in years, an indication of the affection [words indistinct] and in which we have such pride.

And for me, on behalf of the government and people of Jordan, to express our pride and our friendship, our deep gratitude for the support that we have received over the years, for the friendship that has lasted through difficult times, based on mutual respect and a desire to cooperate and based on understanding. This is of such great value to us and will always be.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is a good friend, a man of his word, a peacemaker, and I have been hard [words indistinct] to achieve what has been achieved, but to say that now we are embarked upon peace-building between our peoples, for our peoples, and for the future.... [Passage indistinct]

Thank you both for the pleasure of seeing you with us, and on behalf of the Government and the people of Jordan and for myself, a very happy welcome. Thank you.

Israel's Rabin Addresses Gathering

TA0506090095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0707 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Address by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the occasion of the tripartite meeting with King Husayn and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the Naharayim border crossing — live, in English with simultaneous translation into Hebrew; transcribed from English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesty, the king of Jordan, King Husayn; His Excellency, the chancellor of Germany; His Royal Highness, the crown prince of Jordan; the prime minister of Jordan; members of the cabinet; the foreign minister of Israel; the colleagues of the chancellor of Germany; distinguished leaders of Jordan and Israel; ladies and gentlemen: For me, this moment, this meeting is a historically significant event. First, it shows that the peace between Jordan and Israel is a viable one. It develops, and no doubt first and foremost because of the courage, the imagination, and the vision of the leader of Jordan, King Husayn. Without his leadership, without his courage, without his commitment to make peace and to make the kind of peace that we entertain. [sentence as heard] We have only two peace treaties now, but this peace with Jordan has no barrier through which we have to go of multinational force or setups or international ones. We can speak one to another. We have the machinery, the committees through which we can speak directly without the need of anyone to intervene. All that we [word indistinct] that the world, the international community, the various organizations, the Arab countries, will respect what has been achieved and will assist the people that are engaged in peace — first and foremost, the Jordanian people that deserve with their great leader, King Husayn, to see that peace brings prosperity to the person, to the average citizen, in Amman, in Irbid, [word indistinct].

The second thing is that we are here. We are here in a meeting of two rivers that supply water to all the parts of Israel and Jordan south of here: al-Yarmuk River and the Jordan River. In our meeting before, Chancellor Kohl said that he was brought up on the idea that water is life. Here we are in the place of sources of water. Let us make them use for the benefit of the people of Jordan and the people of Israel. If water is life, let us give life to the people that had the courage to make peace and see it as a beginning of what we dreamt together when we negotiated peace, when we signed peace, when we develop peace, that the rift of valley will become the valley of peace.

[Words indistinct] in a unique expression of the meaning of peace with Jordan. The story of this place — al-Baqurah and Naharayim — goes over 70 years ago, when the first electric power plant was built here by agreement between British Mandatory Palestine and the Emirate of [word indistinct].

We are here under the sovereignty of Jordan, but Jordan gave permission to Israelis to fulfill some of their rights to cultivate part of the land that used to be cultivated long time ago. This is a unique expression of peace and [passage indistinct] that such a meeting can take place. And for what? For the sake of peace, for the sake of stability and tranquillity in the region, that as you, Chancellor Kohl, said was the cradle of civilization in the past. No doubt, Chancellor Kohl, that your presence here means a lot, that we are more than glad to attend. You are a major leader in the world, major leader in the European Union, and no doubt your presence here, your involvement by the decision to come and visit the region, gives great hope. I wish that [words indistinct].

In the name of the Government of Israel [words indistinct] that your presence here will not be only symbolic but that you will join with us in the effort to make water [words indistinct].

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Minister Explains Decision To Expel Hamas Activists

JN0306121895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Jun 95 pp 1, 27

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stressed that Jordan was not under any foreign pressure when it decided to ask two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders to leave its territory. Al-Kabariti said that Jordan will not be pressured when it comes to matters concerning its national sovereignty and security.

The foreign minister said the two Hamas leaders hold Arab passports and carried out actions that provided sufficient reason for the Interior Ministry to ask them to leave the country. Naturally, he said, when any Arab or foreigner residing in Jordan violates the conditions of his stay, the government has the right to ask him to leave the country.

The foreign minister said Jordan views as very positive the progress achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track. He underlined the firm Jordanian position in support of the Syrian rights. Al- Kabariti noted the importance of the visit U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make to the region next week, saying the visit will seek to follow up on the breakthrough achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Asked about German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Jordan, scheduled to start tomorrow, Sunday, the foreign minister noted that relations between Germany and Jordan are very strong. He said: We in Jordan will never forget Germany's support of Jordan during the Gulf crisis. Germany then supported Jordan with aid and easy loans, and we will never forget this. The German chancellor's visit to Jordan will give us the opportunity to express our gratitude for his and Germany's position. We also believe that Germany has a very important leading role to play within the EU, and we pin hopes on an important European role in the regional political, economic, cultural, humanitarian, and security levels.

Minister al-Kabariti noted the ties of friendship between the German chancellor on the one hand and His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian officials on the other. He noted that the French elections also produced a new friend for Jordan and the Arabs — President Jacques Chirac. He said: We hope that Germany and France can coordinate their efforts to give a strong boost to the partnership agreement between the Mediterranean states and Europe. We also hope that the German chancellor will lead a European effort to support the peace projects, especially in the water field.

Al-Kabariti said that a tripartite meeting, comprising his majesty the king, the German chancellor, and the Israeli prime minister, will be held on Monday in al-Baqurah area, at a proposed site for a dam and reservoir that will be called the peace reservoir. This project, he said, will mark the start of water resources and other development projects that will benefit Jordan, Palestine, and Israel.

The minister said that Jordan will make proposals to develop water projects in the Jordan Valley, totaling $500 million. He said: The German chancellor has begun to play an active role, along with the other EU states, to secure the necessary capital, and I believe this is now possible. An announcement on the start of these projects and the availability of the necessary capital may be made during German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit.

Expelled Leaders Depart for Tehran

MM0206151895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman and AL-HAYAH bureau in Washington: "Two Hamas Leaders Leave Jordan for Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday left Amman at the request of the Jordanian authorities after the expiry of the deadline set for them to leave Jordan.

Islamic Movement sources have told AL-HAYAH that Musa Abu-Marzuq and 'Imad al-'Alami left Amman airport yesterday for Tehran. Their families remained in Jordan, but are preparing to join them later once they have settled down in the Iranian capital.

The sources said that al-'Alami and Abu-Marzuq "will decide later what their final destination will be" and whether they will stay in Tehran temporarily or permanently. [passage omitted]

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Hizballah Official Hails 'Resistance' in Speech

NC0506065095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has stated that the struggling Iranian people, who are blessed to live under the rule of Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God protect him, and who are the bearers of a divine message, are capable today of confronting all challenges and weathering all aggressive storms, just as they confronted all of world arrogance's conspiracies and schemes under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic revolution.

Speaking at a massive ceremony organized by Hizballah at the Imam Kohmeyni Mosque in Ba'labakk to commemorate the death anniversary of Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, His Eminence Nasrallah noted that the doctrine followed by all the infallible imams prevailed and continues to prevail in Iran at both the leadership and people's levels.

He pointed out that the Islamic Resistance started in Lebanon in 1982 in that atmosphere and on the advice of Imam Khomeyni, who told a small group of Lebanese to turn Lebanon into a graveyard for the Zionists. This is precisely what happened; and we feel proud and dignified today to see that the United States is preoccupied with Hizballah youths, sometimes using its veto and making threats at other times, he added. Nasrallah added: This confirms to us that we are faithful to our Islam, people, and leadership.

His Eminence Nasrallah added that were it not for the resistance, nobody would have bothered about Lebanon. Our strength comes from the existence on this soil of a people who resist, become martyrs, and refuse to give in. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Seek To Exclude Hizballah From Cabinet

NC0306170895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has affirmed that U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Ron Schlicher asked Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri not to include Hizballah in the Cabinet so as to deprive us of any legitimacy.

He said: We do not need a clearance bill from anyone. Our fundamental stance on this government will be announced by the Hizballah deputies at the Chamber session when voting on the motion of confidence in the government.

Military Court Issues Verdict in Sfayr Bombing

NC0306193595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The permanent military court sitting under Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hamid Kharbatli unanimously issued its verdict in the case of the bombing in the Sfayr area [in the southern suburb of Beirut on 21 December 1994, in which Hizballah official Fu'ad Mughanniyah was killed]. The court sentenced Ahmad al-Hallaq to death in absentia. It sentenced Hanan Yasin and Wafiq Nasir to 15 years in prison at hard labor. It sentenced Tawfiq Nasir to death in absentia. It sentenced Ghassan al-Humsi to life imprisonment at hard labor in absentia. It sentenced Suhayl al- Humsi to 3 years in prison at hard labor.

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Envoy to Washington on Israeli Peace 'Reluctance'

NC0306071195 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Interview with Walid al-Mu'allim, ambassador to Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ambassador al-Mu'allim: Positive developments have surfaced on the Syrian-Israeli track. It has been announced that you held negotiations with the Israeli ambassador in Washington. Could you shed some light on these developments to the Arab listeners and on Syria's firm position on the Israeli peace process?

[Al-Mu'allim] As President al-Asad has said, what has been accomplished is a step or a piece of the peace process. It is still too early to measure the progress made because this piece establishes a framework of concepts on which an understanding has been reached. It needs to be put into effect — on the ground — in the form of security arrangements, this is what will be accomplished during the experts' talks.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Has the Israeli side put forward new proposals to you?

[Al-Mu'allim] We have been discussing the principles of the security arrangements for several months. Following Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visits to Washington, things became more clear.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How would you describe the differences in views between you and Israel?

[Al-Mu'allim] They are many problems and obstacles that still exist. As President al-Asad has said, we are trying to solve these differences one at a time.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What, specifically, are these differences about?

[Al-Mu'allim] They are about everything.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel has announced a willingness to withdraw from the Golan. Is this enough or do you have a specific view in mind?

[Al-Mu'allim] Our view agrees with the view of the international community and it is in accordance with Arab rights. Security Council Resolution 242 from 1967 called on Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied after 4 June 1967. What we demand is the implementation of the Resolution on the basis that founded the Madrid peace process; that is, Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June line.

['Abd-Al-'Aziz] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region soon. Have you had contacts with Secretary Christopher and will he bring something new to his tour of the region?

[Al-Mu'allim] As a matter of fact, the actual talks will take place when the secretary of state visits the region and holds talks with President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin. There, decisions about the peace process will be made. As ambassadors in Washington, we exchange ideas in the presence of Coordinator Dennis Ross. Through this exchange of ideas, we agree on when we need Secretary Christopher to make a tour to learn about our leaders' decisions. Christopher's tour is within this framework.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] One last question before ending this dialogue. What is your view of the peace process in general?

[Al-Mu'allim] To go forward, the peace process requires a strategic Israeli decision and an Israeli vision that sees that peace is in its interest and in the interest of the Arab world. So far, we sense Israeli reluctance.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Mu'allim] Thank you brother Ashraf and thanks to Voice of the Arabs.

Reaction to Upcoming Ross, Christopher Tours

Peace Aspirations Affirmed

JN0506112595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the regional tour U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make to promote the peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations, saying: Christopher's new tour comes on the heels of developments that could help advance the peace process. It is true that the announcement regarding the attainment of a conceptual understanding between Syria and Israel is a step in the right direction. But, it remains to be said that what is more important is a full commitment by Israel to implement the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and honor the land-for-peace formula.

The paper adds: It has been proven that sweet words cannot promote the peace process, nor can they help make progress. What helps promote the peace process is the adoption by Israel of an unequivocal and clear position subscribing to complete and full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. If this basic condition is

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met, the peace process will recover, proceed in the right direction, and achieve the desired goals.

The paper goes on to say: The peace process requires immense and sincere efforts. The first thing that it needs is an absolute commitment by Israel to comply thoroughly with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, even on minute details. Any departure from the terms and requirements of the peace process is tantamount to a hostile action against peace — a peace which has become an international demand.

The paper concludes by saying that Syria is extremely serious in its efforts to achieve a true, just, comprehensive, and viable peace.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the upcoming regional tour Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East peace coordinator, will make for preliminary talks ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, saying: As usual, Israeli officials have made a string of optimistic statements. Some of these officials deemed Christopher's upcoming tour decisive. Well, this tour could be decisive if Israel decides to meet the requirements of peace, chief among which is complete withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders, and abandons once and for all the policy of procrastination, foot-dragging, and delaying tactics.

The paper goes on to say: Syria has responded favorably, sincerely, and honestly to international peace efforts. It has proved to all members of the international community that it is interested in the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace—one that is grounded in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the United Nation's covenants.

The Arab region, after many long years of conflict, aspires to a durable, stable, and viable peace, and not merely partial solutions or separate deals that only lay the seeds of future conflicts. Hence, TISHRIN says, Syria's determination that the international community's resolutions serve as the firm foundations for the desired peace, and the only terms of reference for all parties to the conflict.

TISHRIN concludes its commentary by saying: Syria has done all it can to promote the cause of peace. Likewise, it has made immense efforts to render international peace efforts a success. It is determined to make further efforts toward that end, but in the framework of international legitimacy and its resolutions. It cannot abandon a single inch of the Golan territory, or a single national right. Peace cannot prevail unless the occupation is dismantled, the aggression is reversed, and international law is upheld.

Importance of Visits Stressed

JN0406164395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 4 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The world interest in the coming visits to the region by the U.S. secretary of state and his assistant Dennis Ross reflects the world's interest in peace.

The Middle East is looking forward to such peace on the basis of what can be called the relative detente in talks after security understandings have been reached. These understandings will open the way for other moves and awaited steps in the peace process, so it can achieve its aspired objective.

As with all previous tours by Christopher and James Baker, former U.S. secretary of state, Damascus will be the leg most interested in peace, most aware of its requirements, and clearest about its phased and strategic objectives. At the same time, Damascus will be the party furthest away from maneuvers and arguments which harm peace instead of serving it.

The entire issue can be extremely clear and simple, but at the same time it can also be extremely obscure and complicated. It depends on the existence of sincere intentions to achieve a just and comprehensive peace without selling out the land or rights, led by the right to balance [al-tawazun], equality [al-tasawi], parallelism [al-tawazi], and equitability [al-takafu'] in the current and future security arrangements. This stems from the fact that it was our people who came under aggression, it was our land that was occupied, and it is our future that is threatened. It is not at all the other way round regardless of the exaggerations made by the Israeli officials and the supporting media in terms of changing reality and ignoring the truth.

We do not exaggerate when we say that the tours of Ross and Christopher will be a test — either what has been accomplished will be followed by tangible practical steps and serious implementation of the remaining aspects of the peace process, led by full withdrawal from the occupied territory to the 4 June 1967 borders and withdrawal from southern Lebanon, or else the opportunity will be lost and the efforts will be wasted, particularly those of the U.S. Administration as well as the tours made by its envoys throughout three and a half years, and the region will return to its previous situation, which will adversely affect the achievements, though narrow and limited, realized in other areas.

This shows the importance of the tours of Secretary Warren Christopher and his assistant Dennis Ross.

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It also shows the seriousness of hesitation and the futility of disrupting this tour under circumstances which necessarily require the other party [reference to Israel] to provide all elements of success exactly like Syria's continued eagerness to do so for more than three years.

It is the most difficult test. We hope that the region will pass this test in order to enter into the world of a just and comprehensive peace, equality [al-musawah], and equitability [al- takafu']. Such peace will be defended by the peoples because it embodies their dignity, and not the other way round.

Radio Urges 'Real Progress'

JN0306165995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: There is increasing Arab and world interest in the tours of the region which Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process; and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, are expected to make. This is happening amid positive signs about the possibility of pushing the peace process forward along the road to achieving the desired objective.

In addition to their timing following the U.S. announcement that a set of understandings on equal [mutasawiyah] and reciprocal [mutaqabilah] security arrangements has been reached, these two tours, in content, are aimed at paving the way, under clear and strong bases, for talks on the experts level. These talks will have the specific task of implementing what was reached in the set of understandings on security arrangements without new obstacles, falsehoods, or maneuvers.

Moreover, observers expect Christopher's tour to open the way for activating other aspects of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks where just and comprehensive peace is the objective and where implementing Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle is the means to achieving this objective and where the United States translates its commitments by seeking to achieve a just and comprehensive peace founded on the bases governing the peace process within the framework of the Madrid Conference.

It is true that the set of understandings on security arrangements gave a push of optimism regarding the possibility of achieving progress in the peace process. However, real progress continues to await deeds, that is, translating words in the set of agreements into reality. The security arrangements will remain meaningless unless they are turned into facts that cannot be accepted as such without a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

On every occasion, Syria has said that Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon is an inevitable prelude to achieving peace.

The UN Security Council resolutions stipulate full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and the U.S. initiative comprises the land-for-peace principle. Thus, a new era of stability and security for all will prevail in the region.

Syria has repeatedly emphasized its genuine desire to establish a peace that restores its land and its national and pan-Arab rights. Syria incessantly sought to render successful the U.S. efforts which are based on a U.S. commitment to a just and comprehensive peace. While Syria views the U.S. announcement on the set of understandings on security arrangements as positive, it reiterates that full withdrawal and the translation of what was agreed on the ground will lead to solid peace, a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the return of the land and rights to their owners, that achieves the interests of all, that respects the dignity of all the parties, and that will not be at the expense of one or more than one party.

In addition to what Israel should do to prove its good intentions, the credibility of any achievement in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks depends on what takes place on the ground under U.S. supervision and thanks to U.S. efforts. The United States assumes a big responsibility at this stage because what is required is to definitively end the maneuvers and disputes, and open a new page showing a common understanding of the concepts of just and comprehensive peace, of its requirements and of its applications which start with full withdrawal.

As President Hafiz al-Asad has said, Syria strongly adheres to and cannot give up the demand for withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border. Syria cannot accept anything less than this. His excellency also pointed out that the understanding reached on some points could be a helping factor, an indicator, or a point of reference that will help achieve progress. Practical progress, as President al-Asad added, requires further efforts.

If Israel has sincere intentions in tackling the peace bases and the new U.S. efforts there will be no obstacle to rendering these efforts a success and to having the peace process proceed toward its aspired goal.

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Press Welcomes U.S. Peace Efforts

JN0406070895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the peace process in the region, TISHRIN says: Eager to achieve a just, comprehensive peace, Syria has stressed that such a peace can only be based on two principles. The first is full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines. The second is Israel's acceptance of parallel [mutawaziyah], equal [mutasawiyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements. In his statements to journalists at the conclusion of his talks with President Husni Mubarak in Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad said: Peace, as you know, is made up of several components or pieces, if I may say so. What is being talked about is only one piece, which is the security arrangements. The paper adds: Reaching an understanding on the principles of security arrangements is a step in the right direction, but there remains a great deal of practical steps to be taken on the ground based on Israel's full commitment to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN says that peace, as understood and wanted by Syria, must be based on practical stands, steps on the ground, and response to the bases and principles of a just, comprehensive peace. Peace must also be based on Israel's commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy demanding that the occupied territory be returned to its rightful owners. The paper says that the chance that has been made available again by the agreement on the principles of a security arrangements understanding should not be wasted. Israel should take this opportunity and respond to its conditions and requirements.

Dealing with the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: A wave of optimism has prevailed among Arab and international political quarters about the possibility of achieving a tangible progress on the Syrian track — and, consequently, a similar progress on the Lebanese track in view of the known inseparability of the two tracks. The paper adds that there is a considerable interest in the success of the tours of Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, and U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher in achieving a real breakthrough in the peace process based on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon and the subsequent implementation of the agreed-upon framework of principles on security arrangements.

The paper says that more than ever before, Israel is required to prove good intentions to pave the way for a new phase in the peace process leading to the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. The paper says that Syria has offered and is offering all that is required to boost the peace process. Syria welcomes the exerted U.S. efforts to implement the framework of principles on security arrangements and to address the remaining aspects of peace to which we have referred: The land-for-peace principle and the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace that ensures everyone's rights and dignity.

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Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Rejects International Solution to Crisis

MM0506133095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Hekmatyar Tells AL-HAYAH: There Will Be No International Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jalalabad (Afghanistan) — Afghan opposition leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has expressed the view that the United Nations is incapable of resolving the Afghan crisis. In an interview with AL-HAYAH in Jalalabad (eastern Afghanistan) yesterday, he said that the situation in his country must be settled decisively by military means. He confirmed his willingness to join an alliance with the Taleban Movement to overthrow the regime of his adversary President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Hekmatyar, who was fired from the post of prime minister by President Rabbani, expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to prevent a bloodbath in Afghanistan. He revealed that Prince Turki al-Faysal, the Saudi mediator, was trying to convene a conference of Afghan parties in Jeddah to resolve the issue of the power struggle.

He said that a peaceful solution could only be achieved through the formation of a provisional government on the basis of understanding among all parties, to assume power and prepare for general elections. But he said that he feared that the Afghan president was not ready to step down.

The Afghan opposition leader accused Iran of supporting "the Indian-Russian alliance which is providing aid for Rabbani's regime to serve their common interests." He said that Rabbani "promised the Russians not to interfere in the neighboring Central Asian republics. And he purchases arms from them and prints his currency there."

He said that Iran chose to support Rabbani against the Taleban Movement because it "thought that it was a U.S.-made movement," but he confirmed the continuation of understanding and contacts between the movement and the Islamic Party which he leads. He added that "they (Taleban) want us to help them and they admit that they were wrong to wage a battle against us, but we have not reached a final agreement with them yet."

He said that Pakistan's position Is not clear yet and that U.S. Ambassador in Islamabab John Monjo, with whom he met two days ago, was trying to "peddle the UN plan" for the transfer of power to a neutral government "but we told him that that was unlikely, and we understood from him that he was trying to keep regional hands off the Afghan arena in order to peddle international plans."

'Grand Alliance' Forming Against Rabbani Government

LD0306124295 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 3, IRNA — Fighting intensifies in different parts of war-ravaged Afghanistan amid reports indicating that efforts are continuing to forge a grand alliance against the government led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

According to Afghan sources, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] led by former Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has committed at least 2000 men to Afghan student militia, Taleban and they had jointly attacked government forces' positions in the vicinity of Kabul through eastern Lowgar Province and western Maydan Shahr [Kowt-e 'Ashrow] town.

Hekmatyar in an interview with a Pakistani daily on Wednesday [31 May] had expressed his readiness to join hands with Taleban against Rabbani's government.

There are also reports of fighting between Taleban and forces of Governor Ismail Khan, a Rabbani's ally, in southwestern Afghanistan in Farah and Nimruz provinces.

Other reports suggest that forces of Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat are also gearing up for launching attack together with Taleban and Hezb-e Eslami, on forces of Professor Abdur Rab Rasoul Sayyaf [name as received], another Rabbani ally, in Paghman [as received] Province.

Herat Governor: Fight Against Taleban To Continue

LD0306190195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We will continue to fight against the Taleban group until they recognize the state, said Isma'il Khan, commander of the Kabul administration in Herat, in an interview with BBC radio. Isma'il Khan said: Contrary to their earlier statement promising to keep communication roads to Herat open, the Taleban group has now reneged on this promise and has prevented commercial goods from reaching Herat Province.

Isma'il Khan added: When our compatriots realized that the Taleban group is being guided from outside and wants to eliminate the honors of jihad, they decided to

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rise up against the Taleban group. He said: I ask all people, in particular the religious people of Kandahar, to rise up against the Taleban group and not to let this group to take action against the jihad.

Taleban: No Cease-Fire Until Rabbani Resigns

LD0206192295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] No cease-fire would be possible until the Kabul administration steps down and gives up power. This point was made by Mowlawi Abdol Rahman, one of the spokesmen of the Taleban group, at a news conference held in Peshawar city. He added:

During the period when the Taleban group was fighting the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], Rabbani was cooperating with the Taleban group. But when his position was threatened, then he started to fight the Taleban group.

He added: The Kabul administration is receiving assistance from India and Russia to crush the Islamic movements and the Taleban group. For this reason, we are not going to accept any kind of cease-fire with the Kabul administration.

He warned the refugees who are planning to return to Kabul and asked them to give up the plan of returning to Kabul. He also warned those countries planning to open their embassies in Kabul and asked them to refrain from opening their embassy in Kabul. He added that the Taleban group will soon start to attack Kabul.

Taleban Spokesman Accuses Kabul of Deceit

LD0306182795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On one hand, the Kabul administration talks about peace, and on the other hand, it makes preparations for fighting. This point was made by Taleban's spokesman Mowlawi Abdol Baqi Turkistani, in an interview with BBC.

He said: During the talks we put forward a number of conditions, and these conditions were passed on to the delegation to convey to Rabbani and Mas'ud. We were hoping to receive a reply, but the Mas'ud men then attacked our positions in Fariab and in some other regions. He added: This conspiracy by Mas'ud was foiled. They were not only defeated in this place, but these areas were completely cleared of the enemies.

Turkistani added: We have received a report today that Mas'ud himself has gone to the Salang area and is now making preparationa for new fighting. He said: We would not trust any agreement or accord with the Kabul administration because, during the past three years, they have signed many accords but after a few days they trampled on them.

Taleban Said Trying To Incite Ethnic Split

LD0206112695 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Birjand [placename as received] (Khorasan prov.), June 2, IRNA — The residents of Helmand Province in Afghanistan are against the presence of Talebans grouplet in the province because of their negative practices, an informed Afghani source said.

A number of Taleban leaders are trying to aggravate ethnic difference through propaganda to attract men, the source added. By sowing discord between Persian speakers and Pashto speakers in Helmand Province, the Talebans have reached an agreement with leaders of the Hezb-e Eslami and are intriguing people against Persian speaking people, he said.

The source said that the majority in Helmand Province are against this seditious moves and want Talebans to leave their region.

Fighting Between Kabul, Opposition Forces Continues

Regions Cleared of Kabul Forces

LD0106165095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The areas of Shebar and Mashel in Bamian Province have been cleared of the Kabul administration warmongers.

A responsible source of the High Coordination Council in Bamian Province reports that yesterday, 30 May [as heard], the forces of the High Coordination Council in Bamian Province completely cleared the sub-district of Shebar and the area of Mashel of the Kabul administration's warmongers. The forces of the High Coordination Council have been stationed in these two places. During this mopping-up operation, heavy loss of life and material were inflicted on the enemy, and a large number of weapons and ammunition were seized as booty.

There is now fierce fighting in Ghorband District's crossroad.

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Dostam, Taleban Attack Repulsed

LD0206171795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report by an Afghan Defense Ministry source, a large-scale joint operation was launched this morning in various directions by the so-called Taleban group and the Dostam militia against the Islamic state and mojahedin.

The report adds that today around 0400 hours a large-scale attack was launched by Dostam's militia along two directions. The first attack was launched along the direction of Sarkoh-e Emal Khan, Khenjan district. This invasion was repulsed and defeated with the blessing of God and the courage of the Islamic Army's personnel. The enemy sustained losses.

Another attack was then launched by the militiamen from the direction of Roy-e Ab, which was again defeated.

According to another report, another attack, simultaneously with the above attack, was launched along the direction of Maydan Shahr's suburbs, Wardak Province, and Mohammad Agha district, Logar Province, by the so-called Taleban group. The attack along this direction was also defeated and the enemy retreated as a result of resistance by Islamic Army forces. Moreover, Islamic Army personnel, during a counterattack, managed to capture a number of enemy positions.

During the operation a number of enemy soldiers were killed and captured by Islamic Army forces.

Kabul Forces Attack Unsuccessful

LD0306153195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the Kabul administration was repulsed in Khenjan district, Baghlan Province. In a telephone conversation from Baghlan Province, a responsible source with the High Coordination Council reported to a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that yesterday morning the forces of the Kabul administration launched an attack against the positions of the High Coordination Council around Khenjan district. This attack was met with fierce resistance by the coordination council's forces. During the counterattack, the opposition forces' attack was repulsed and heavy losses of life and material were imposed on the enemy.

The report says that during the successful counterattack by the coordination council, a number of the Shura-e Nezar [Mas'ud forces] positions were captured, and a large amount of weapons and ammunition was taken as booty by the forces of the coordination council.

Dostam Planes Bomb Kabul Positions

LD0406152895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] air force bombed the Kabul administration positions. According to reports received by this radio, yesterday morning the HCC air force bombarded the positions of the Kabul administration's warmongers in Salang and some other areas. The reports add that during the bombing heavy loss of life and material was inflicted on the Kabul administration forces. Similarly, a responsible source from the HCC told a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that the HCC forces are continuing their advance toward Salang, and the other side's men have completely lost combat morale.

Taleban, Kabul Forces Clash

LD0306162695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fierce fighting flared up between the forces of Taleban and the Kabul administration in the Arghandeh area, Paghman District.

Reports received by Radio Message of Freedom say that three days ago the Taleban forces started fierce fighting from Maydan Shar in the direction of Arghandeh, Paghman district. The Taleban fighters captured a number of Kabul administration positions in Arghandeh and Qala-e Haydar Khan areas.

A responsible source of the Taleban group claimed yesterday that they captured 10 strong positions of the Kabul administration in Arghandeh area and shot down a Kabul administration jet aircraft that was bombarding Maydan Shar and Taleban positions. The Taleban group also claimed that during this operation they seized as booty a large quality of weapons and ammunition and imposed loss of life and material on the enemy. These claims have not been confirmed by independent sources.

Kabul Forces Repulse Taleban Attack

LD0306170595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the pseudo-Taleban group was repulsed this morning in Mohammad Agha district, Logar Province.

A responsible security source reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the pseudo-Taleban militia

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launched an unsuccessful attack from Mohammad Agha district, Logar Province, on the position of the Islamic Army this morning. This attack was met with fierce resistance by the forces of the Islamic Army. After sustaining heavy loss of life and material, the pseudo-Taleban group was forced to retreat.

During this unsuccessful attack, 23 militiamen were killed, and one of their commanders, Mola Mahmud, nicknamed Adam Khur [maneater], was seriously wounded. One enemy tank was destroyed, and one of their BM-12 weapon was burned.

According to another report, an enemy attack was repulsed yesterday around Dara-e Suf district, Samangan Province. As a result of this operation, 10 of Dostam's militiamen were killed and another 12 were injured.

India

Parliament Approves Extension of Presidential Rule

BK0306125395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months from the 18th of July. A resolution on this was unanimously adopted by the Lok Sabha today. The Rajya Sabha approved it earlier. Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said the government is prepared to hold talks with anyone who shuns violence to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jurisdiction of Police in Kashmir Extended

BK0406121995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Special Operation Group — SOG — of Jammu and Kashmir police set up in Srinagar last night to fight militancy will extend operations to the remaining five districts of Kashmir valley and Jammu and Doda Districts of Jammu region. Disclosing this at the first raising day celebrations of the SOG in Srinagar yesterday, the director general of the state police, Mr. M.N. Sabarwal, said that the government's decision was in view of the commendable success of the SOG during last year.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to raise the ex- gratia payment to the next of kin of those magistrates and police officials killed while on duty from 1.2 lakh rupees to 2 lakh rupees.

Nine 'Militants' Reported Killed in Kashmir

BK0206011295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir valley, 14 persons including nine militants have been killed in the militancy-related incidents during the past 24 hours. The security forces have arrested 10 militants and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition including two wireless sets.

Meanwhile, the village defense committees in the border areas of Jammu Division have been alerted against attempts at bomb explosions by Pakistani agents in the region. Strict checking of vehicles has also been introduced. An explosive device was recovered from a bus at Riasi and five bombs from Musa Chowk in Ranbirsinghpura area yesterday from two Pakistani infiltrators. They were later killed by the police.

Delhi Asks Sri Lanka To Extradite LTTE Chief

BK0306121795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has requested Sri Lanka for the arrest and extradition of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] chief V. Prabhakaran and two of his colleagues — Pottu Amman and Akhila. The three persons are accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The minister looking after some aspects of the investigation and trial of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Mr. P. Chidambaram, informed the Lok Sabha today that three requisitions have been sent to Colombo this morning through a special messenger. Making a statement, the minister said the Sri Lankan authorities have informed New Delhi that the absconding accused are in Jaffna. He said 26 accused are being tried in the case and the case against the other three accused, that is V. Prabhakaran, Pottu Amman, and Akhila, who are absconding, has been split out.

Article Notes Support for LTTE in Tamil Nadu

BK0406134495 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 26 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Madras, 26 May. The central government is apprehensive about the unexpected support extended by some political parties in Tamil Nadu to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. The central government is afraid that this will once again facilitate the movement of the Tigers in Tamil Nadu.

Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in cold blood by the LTTE in Tamil Nadu in May 1991. Until the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, LTTE cadres were freely moving in Tamil Nadu. They were using the

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Tamil Nadu coast in an unrestrained manner to smuggle essential goods and weapons to Jaffna.

Soon after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi on Tamil Nadu soil, the support and sympathy extended by the Tamil people to the LTTE dwindled. The parties that supported the LTTE faced a humiliating defeat in the ensuing general elections. All the links the LTTE had in Tamil Nadu were severed. Political parties also completely withdrew their support for the LTTE.

On several occasions, the Sri Lankan Army launched major offensives against the LTTE after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. A number of people were killed. Even then, political parties in Tamil Nadu did not say anything about the war in Sri Lanka.

Now, after a few month's lull, war has again erupted in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government has sought the assistance of foreign countries to meet the challenge posed by the LTTE, which has a stockpile of anti-aircraft missiles. Under these circumstances, while commenting on the ongoing war in Sri Lanka, parties like Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Pattali Makkal Katchi, and Makkal Dravidra Munnetra Kazhagam [MDMK] have issued statements in support of the LTTE. The Communist Party of India-Marxist, which has an alliance with the MDMK, has issued a statement against the LTTE. There was no comment from the Congress-I. It seems that the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is firm in its stance in opposing the LTTE. Certain extremist organizations and bodies in Tamil Nadu have issued pro-LTTE statements.

The sudden expression of support in Tamil Nadu for the LTTE has worried the central government. The Government of India's Home Ministry has stated that the Tigers were able to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi easily due to their links in Tamil Nadu. Now that those links have been restored, the Home Ministry is apprehensive that the lives of Very Very Important Persons in Tamil Nadu are at risk.

A senior intelligence officer has said: Chief Minister Jayalalitha has openly stated in the state legislature that Sri Lankan refugees are responsible for the upsurge in the incidents of murders, robberies, and extortions in Tamil Nadu and that the crime rate will come down only when they are expelled from the state. Even then, no political party raised its voice in favor of the Sri Lankan Tamils. Now, the sudden expression of their support for the Tigers raises doubts.

Pointing to the fact that the smuggling of diesel and gasoline from the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu has been on the increase, the intelligence offer has also stated that as a result of the pro- LTTE statements issued by the political leaders, party activists will openly start supporting the LTTE.

Meanwhile, police have stepped up security along the Tamil Nadu coast. Patrolling by the newly constituted [as published] Coast Guard has also been stepped up. A senior official has stated that comprehensive precautionary steps have been taken to prevent the infiltration of Tigers into Tamil Nadu due the ongoing war in Sri Lanka.

Iran

Rafsanjani on U.S. 'Animosity' Toward Country

LD0306181895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rasanjani, receiving the guests who are participating in the anniversary of the death of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him, believes that the presence of some Islamic world personalities at the anniversary services of the death of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran will bring further solidarity and unity among Muslims and clarify for the world the truths and realities concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this meeting the president pointed out: The U.S. and the world arrogance do not want the name and the shining thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, God's benediction upon him, to continue to light the path and be the guiding torch of free-thinking human beings and revolutionary Muslims during the absence of that great man. It is certain that the presence of foreign guests in Iran, which signals their love for the imam's sacred ideas and thoughts, infuriates the world arrogance. [passage omitted]

The president said: One of the reasons for the anger by the world arrogance toward the objectives of Imam Khomeyni is that the divine leader succeeded in presenting history with the model of an Islamic state that conflicts with their colonialist aims and has ended forever their widespread and longtime propaganda which claimed the isolation and incapability of religion in governing the country and creating an ideal community. [passage omitted]

The president pointed out: If the U.S. intensifies its fury and animosity against the Islamic revolution and our people by lying, fault finding, slander, and sanctions and tries to blacken the image of this divine syestem, it is because of the numerous achievements and great successes of Iran in offering higher ideals in the present era. [passage omitted]

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Khamene'i Speaks at Khomeyni Anniversary

LD0406134395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0535 GMT 4 Jun 95

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, before a public meeting at the shrine of Imam Khomeyni in ceremonies marking the sixth anniversary of the imam's death — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear nation of Iran! The interest of powers to make nations dependent on them is not a matter of history. It is a contemporary issue and it belongs to the present. It is today that the great world powers use all efforts to expand their influence in the various parts of the world and to make other countries dependent on them. This is the measure of their friendship and enmity with other countries.

Today, the U.S. superpower claims to dominate world issues. Several days ago, the U.S. President made a speech in which he replied to those Americans who believe that the U.S. regime is excessively interfering in the affairs of other countries. The U.S. President has said that they interfere in the affairs of other countries because of U.S. interests. This was announced openly. The interests of that country are the only important thing for them, and in order to serve those interests, they interfere in the affairs of other countries; and they think they have the right to do so.

In their eyes, a country such as Islamic Iran and a system such as that of the Islamic Republic is an enemy because it has stood up to their illegitimate demands. Their rationale and argument is that the Iranian Government is opposed to U.S. interests. They repeat that statement internationally — that the Iranian Government and the Islamic Republic are opposed to U.S. interests. But if you [Americans] limit your interests to the borders of your country, we would not have anything to do with you. If you did not interfere in the affairs of other countries, including Iran, we would not have anything to do with you.

But you are expansionist and excessive. You are following the example of European states in their colonization of the world. In the 19th century, the European states established the colonial system in the various corners of the world. They went to small countries. They colonized what they could and controlled the countries. Some were colonized through direct government, such as India. Others were colonized through illegitimate interference and through establishing pseudo-national and pseudo-indigenous governments that were dependent on the British. But the European powers were weakened because of the two international wars in Europe in the mid-twentieth century. The colonized nations awakened and rose to their feet to liberate themselves from the claws of colonialism. It was then that Western intellectuals started to speak and write against the harms of colonialism.

One of the places where much was said against colonialism was the United States. It had not yet had a chance to make colonies. The Europeans had overtaken the United States in colonial matters and the Americans spoke against colonialism. But nations gradually liberated themselves from colonialism and established independent nations.

Today, the U.S. Government seeks, in truth and spirit, the aims of colonialists of the nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries. There is no difference. In those days, the European governments argued that they needed the vital resources of other countries and therefore colonized them. The European powers would humiliate the small and weak countries that they colonized.

Today, the United States is saying the same thing. Today, the U.S. President, in an address to the state elite, explicitly announces his intention to interfere in the affairs of other countries because such is in their interests. Well, this is an illegitimate interest and contrary to the interests of other countries. [public chants: "Death to America!"] In his speech, the gentleman said the U.S. people must remain a fighting nation. But the fight that he wants for them is a not a fight for justice, peace, and goodness. It is a fight for injustice. It is a fight for interference in other countries.

There are many among the U.S. people who hate such interference and such a policy. Other nations too have great hate for such motives in the U.S. Government and among U.S. statesmen. [public chants: "Death to America!"] And for this very reason, the Iranian nation has no feeling of reconciliation for the United States, the colonial and hegemonic power of the United States. The Iranian nation feels that the United States seeks to interfere and commit acts of aggression. When conditions are favorable, they express these feelings in words.

The foremost achievement of the great revolution was to destroy the roots of dependency in Iran that had been in that state for many years. It made Iran an independent nation. Today, the Iranian nation has not and will not have any concern for the demands, requirements, will, and interference of the great powers, especially the United States, in domestic and international affairs nor in political, economic, cultural, and propaganda issues. [public chants: "God is great!"] The aspect that has become famous about the order of the Islamic Republic

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in the world and the aspect which stands against the demands of powers, especially the demands of the United States and their arrogant requirements, is the fundamental spirit of our great revolution, which is based on opposition to dependency and in favor of the great independence of the nation. The order of the Islamic Republic was created on this basis, and with God's blessing, it remains so today. Such is the internal dimension of the revolution. [passage omitted]

I would like all the sisters and brothers to heed one point. That is: Today, global arrogance, headed by the U.S. regime and followed by all the world's bad people, all those who support prejudice, all the oppressors, all the tyrants, and all the autocrats, and all those people who are against justice and truth, have come to one conclusion to which you should pay attention. They have come to the conclusion that today the Islamic revolution is being publicized merely through the existence of the Islamic regime. As long as the regime is secure, as long the Islamic Republic exists firmly and strongly, as long as the regime of the Islamic Republic is gaining power and flourishing day by day, they feel threatened.

Their intention is, if possible, to destroy and overthrow the regime of the Islamic Republic. They are, of course, disappointed. They know that the task is not practical anymore. As a second choice, however, their ambition is not to allow the regime of the Islamic Republic and Iran, which is ruled by the regime, to appear as a regime and an independent and advanced country in the world. They want to harm its independence through interference by various means and by making it seem that if they do not support us, we would not be able to do anything. This is how they want to make it seem — as a lie; and in this way, they want to harm the country's independence and nonaffiliation. Or if they cannot carry out that task, they want to try to prevent the nation from building its country and reconstructing Iran, and creating a life in the country that is the envy of other nations. They want to prevent this. You should be aware of it. [passage omitted]

The enemy want to make it seem that if a country or a nation turns to Islam, it will live in poverty. It should be deprived of scientific development. It should not be able to rule itself.

Iranian nation! You have fought and struggled against this enemy's intention during the past 16 years, from the very first days of the revolution up until now.

You, the great and dear nation and the intelligent and capable nation, have carried out such a task that your country, which lives in the fold of Islam and under the banner of Islam, has become able to set an example for other countries. The Iranian nation has worked very hard for the reconstruction of the country. You have come through the eight years of the imposed war, you have fought against the enemy's interference, you have protected the borders, you have ensured independence, and you have so far worked toward the reconstruction of the country. And from now on, the general mission of the nation is to work further and further toward flourishing and advancement of the country. Everyone should take part in the reconstruction of the country. The nation should retain its unity and cohesion. The enemy's propaganda should not even slightly influence the minds and thoughts of this clear-sighted nation, as has been the case so far. Thanks to almighty God, after a few more years, we shall be able to build such an Iran under the shadow of Islam, that whoever looks at Iran from any corner of the world will see the miracle of Islam in the rebuilding of a country and a nation. [crowd shouts: "God is great" and "O generous leader, we are ready, we are ready!"]

If, God forbid, you had been defeated or had lost territory in the imposed war, the wave of Islamic awakening would have been arrested. Nations experience Islam and the Islamic Republic in your existence. The Islamic wave would have been arrested if you had failed to bring such prosperity and honor to your country, or if you had failed to maintain your national unity, or, God forbid, if Iran had fallen to civil war, which the enemy seeks to impose now. God knows that the unity of the Iranian people is a thorn in the eyes of the enemy. After the revolution, after the war, and after the demise of the imam, the enemy wanted to impose differences among the people and create civil war so that the people would start killing each other. The world arrogance would have then told other Muslims to see how badly the Iranian nation and the Islamic Revolution have fared.

The Iranian nation, however, kept its unity, kept its honor, and continued the reconstruction of the country. It showed its development and advanced its culture. It increased and upgraded further its universities. It has expanded science and education day by day. The country's progress has increased day by day. Other nations are not blind. When they see such a situation, therefore, they turn to Islam. Islamic awareness increases on a daily basis. Turning to Islam is on the increase. If you want Islam to develop even further and the Islamic awareness to cover the Islamic world, if you want even the non-Islamic countries to turn to spirituality and find a correct way of life, then you, the Iranian nation, should always respect the principles that you have respected so far.

You should retain your unity. You should keep your fraternity. You should continue your cooperation with

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the kind and devoted government officials in the reconstruction and building of the country.

Thanks be to God. The officials of the country are busy and good people are in charge of the country's affairs. Good people are looking after the affairs of the country. The enemy makes much propaganda. It spreads much poisonous propaganda. But nothing else is expected from an enemy but animosity. The enemy should either impose an economic embargo or spread false propaganda or should embark on a security offensive or should make a conspiracy. The enemy is the enemy. Nothing is expected from an enemy but animosity. The Iranian nation believes in Almighty God and relies on Almighty God and has ties with Almighty God and enjoys the blessing of the great Almighty, who has given such power to a nation. You have come through the path correctly so far. If the great imam is not with us, his pure and living soul is with us and watches us. [passage omitted]

'Millions' Mark Khomeyni's Death Anniversary

LD0506101695 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tehran, June 5, IRNA — Millions of Iranians across the country commemorated the 6th departure anniversary of the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni, on Saturday [4 June] and Sunday. The country which had been already plunged into sorrow as the mourning month of Moharram commenced last week, on Sunday witnessed nationwide mourning ceremonies in honor of the late imam's memory and the memory of his departed son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni who died last March. Multitudes of mourners participating in the ceremonies declared their commitment to the ideals of the late Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic values.

Chanting slogans in support of the Islamic system and the government, the mourners also renewed their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. Reports even from the remotest areas across the conuntry indicate that similar commemoration ceremonies were held in various parts of the country on the 6th death anniversary of the late imam. [passage omitted]

Council Member Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0206113295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, on the third day of Muharram and on the eve of the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, the weekly religious-political Friday [2 June] prayer rituals were particularly glorious. In Tehran, Ayatollah Jannati, a member of the Guardian Council, delivered the sermons at the prayers venue in Tehran University and its surrounding streets.

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's demise, the substitute Friday Imam of Tehran paid tribute to his eminence and said: The importance of the Islamic revolution victory under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni is understood better if we can imagine what fate will have awaited Iran today, had the revolution not toppled the oppressive monarchy.

He pointed out: The uprising of the oppressed against the world arrogant [powers] and oppressors is one of the gains of the Islamic revolution; and the source of the extensive anti-U.S. movements in the world today goes back to the leadership of that great imam.

In another part of his sermons, referring to the week of Propagating Virtue and Prohibiting Vice, Ayatollah Jannati said: In accordance with instructions of the founders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is a duty of every Muslim to propagate virtue and to prohibit vice; and the grounds should be prepared to make it possible for every Muslim to perform this duty.

Ayatollah Jannati stressed the need for cooperation among various organs of the Islamic revolution to realize the Propagating Virtue and Prohibiting Vice duty; and expressed the hope that the people will also cooperate to make its full implementation possible.

In another part of the sermons, on the mourning days of Muharram, Ayatol'ah Jannati said: It is a valuable tradition to hold mourning ceremonies for the martyrs of Karbala. These ceremonies revive Islamic values and it is important to mark the occasion.

He called upon those taking part at the mourning ceremonies for Imam Husayn to refrain from such deeds as self-flagellation by poniard, which is contrary to Islamic principles, and might be exploited by the enemy.

Ayatollah Jannati concluded: This year the day of Ashura [10 Muharram, the day of Imam Husayn's martyrdom] falls on a Friday. The mourners should, therefore, follow the example set by the Lord of the Martyrs [Imam Husayn] who held the congregational Friday prayers at midday on the day of Ashura and should participate at the Friday prayers as gloriously as possible.

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Rowhani Speech on Role of 'Culture of Ashura'

LD3105182495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0735 GMT 31 May 95

[Speech by Hasan Rowhani, deputy speaker and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, at the A'zam mosque in Qom; date not given —recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Today you can see that the Islamic movement has spread throughout the world, the world of Islam. This is no longer a slogan; it is a reality.

It may be that today the Americans and the Westerners exaggerate this reality to some extent, making propaganda in order to justify in international public opinion the opposition to this movement. It is, nevertheless, a reality. The Algerian movement is a reality. The Islamic movement in Egypt is a reality. The Islamic movement in Tunisia is a reality. The Islamic movement in Tajikistan is a reality. At any rate, the president of Tajikistan goes and meets the leader of the Islamic movement, holds talks with him, negotiates with him. So this is a reality. The Islamic movement in Afghanistan is a reality. At any rate, this movement defeated a superpower, crushed it. This is a reality.

The Islamic movement in the Middle East is a reality. Israel was able to defeat all its neighboring governments. Israel was able to do this in six days, in the war in 1967. It is known as the six-day war, the six-day Arab-Israeli war. It is even an exaggeration to say it was a six-day war; it was a one-day war. [passage omitted]

Israel has been expressing feelings of powerlessness during the past two years—for the first time. You can see that Rabin trembles all over when he mentions the word Hezbollah. It is clear in his interviews when he mentions them, when he mentions Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], when he mentions Islamic Jihad. These are not governments. They do not have military power. They do not have aircraft. They do not have rockets. They are an Islamic movement, an enormous movement. This is the movement of Karbala [place in modern-day Iraq where Imam Husayn was martyred]; it is the movement of Ashura. The Islamic movement is a reality today.

That which is spoken of as the Islamic movement throughout the world today is something that is pursuing three aims, wherever it may be—be it in Central Asia, in the Caucasus, in Chechnya, in Tajikistan, in occupied Palestine, in Lebanon, in Africa.

No matter where, Islamic movements pursue three aims: The first is freedom from foreign domination. Their movement, their slogan, their aim is this. They say: We want to be free. We want to be independent. We want to be free of foreign domination. Of course, this mainly refers to western domination. There is not much sense now of speaking of a non-western domination. There may be a few exceptions, where we can speak of another kind of domination, but it is mainly western domination. They want to be free and live independently.

The second aim is the formation of a legitimate government, the formation of an effective government, a government that is in keeping with their cultural and religious standards and norms. Third is the revival of the Islamic identity. In all these movements, one of the aims is that they wish to have an Islamic identity. They want to be Muslims, to live as Muslims. They want to carry out Islamic commands and regulations. They want the Koran to be alive. They want the prophet's Sunnat [tradition] to be alive. They want correct Islam to be alive. All these movements are pursuing these three aims.

These movements do not take orders from us. They do not take their commands from us. Of course, the lives of these movements are intertwined with the life of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is the Umm al-Qura [Mother of Cities — name for Mecca]. The best movements of the world, the biggest movements of the world, say to us: Do not think of us; think of yourselves. The best leaders have said this to me. They have said: There is no need for you to think of us. Think of yourselves. Do not endanger yourselves for us. If you exist, we will exist. If you have honor, we will have honor. If you are defeated, we will no longer exist. We will all be destroyed.

Our lives are intertwined with the life of Iran. This is a reality. This is not a slogan. The source of the spring is here. The Umm al-Qura is here. The source of hope is here. The line begins here. They accept the leadership of this place. The leader of the Islamic movement is Islamic Iran; whether we say so or not. The imam [Khomeyni] is the leader, whether we say so or not. The imam's line, path, and thought rules over the hearts of all free Muslims and movements. Not only is the imam not dead, his life casts a more widespread light with each passing day. Is Imam Husayn dead? Is Karbala dead? Is it possible for the imam to die? The imam has an eternal life, and this life casts its light over a bigger area with each passing day.

The eminent leader of the revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow extend, is the leader of the world of Islam today. This has nothing to do with whether we say so or not. His message, his

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words, his cries, his line, his path is the guiding direction for Islamic movements.

The world accuses us of giving weapons to Islamic movements, of giving them money. They do not need weapons, for us to give them weapons. They do not need money, for us to give them money. On that day, when the westerners themselves started saying, we should deprive Hamas of financial power, the westerners themselves said that Hamas obtains the bulk of its money from Muslims who live in Europe and the United States. They give Hamas money. Hamas does not need our money. Islamic Jihad does not need our money. The Palestinian movement does not need our money. The Algerian movement does not need our money, does not need our weapons. They need our guidance, our ideas, our path, and our line. Iran's leadership is not an artificial one. Iran's guidance is not an administrative one. It is true guidance, cultural guidance, and spiritual guidance. As long as the torch of Islamic Iran is burning bright, this torch will show the way to everyone.

The guidance of Islamic movements, the moral support given to Islamic movements, the continued development of Islamic movements, the dissemination of the true culture of Islam, the dissemination of the culture of Ashura, glory, self-sacrifice and devotion: This is a humanitarian, Islamic, religious, and revolutionary duty that our system bears and will continue to bear as a duty. This is one issue that is important to us.

The second very important mission we have today is the development of Iran. We have to build Iran, to strengthen, modernize, and develop it. We must establish social justice in this land. Our objective is a modern Iran. If Iran is transformed into a modern, developed country, it will become a model country for all Muslims and a slap in the face for all the mistaken views held about Islam by a bunch of biased individuals throughout history: that Islam cannot manage society; that religion cannot rule society; that religious culture cannot build and develop society. Some waspish remarks can be heard here and there to the effect that growth and development is not compatible with an ossified ideology. The point being that we should set aside religious thought if we want development. Religion does not allow us to have freedom of movement. Yes, these remarks may be apt if religion is taken to mean what some people believe it to be. We are talking about a religion, however, and an Islam that the imam explained and defined for us. That Islam interpreted by the imam, that pure Islam, is one that is able to identify the problems of the times and provide solutions for them. [passage omitted]

The world opposes both of these two objectives of ours. It opposes both the continuation of Islamic movements and the growth and modernization of Iran. It opposes both and is at war with both. It is confronting the growth of Islamism and inclination toward Islam and the awakening of Islam, under the banner of fundamentalism and the dangers posed by fundamentalism. This is something that is no longer covered up by the world. I mean that NATO comes and openly announced: Look sir, until yesterday, NATO's organization was essentially based on the dangers of communism. From now on, NATO is here to confront fundamentalism. They announce this very frankly and explicitly. Islamic Iran poses a danger to arrogant powers; they openly declare and say this. Until yesterday, the Americans were saying that their naval fleet will be in the Persian Gulf on a temporary basis. Do you know what this meant? It meant that this Iran will not last; the Islamic Revolution will not last. They have been here for a while, and we are acting as temporary guards. We will call an aircraft carrier to come from the Mediterranean, another from the Indian Ocean, from the Atlantic Ocean. We will administer the Persian Gulf.

Clinton, the Democratic Party, and the Pentagon have decided today to create a permanent military base and a new permanent naval fleet in the Persian Gulf. Of course, this is very significant. This remark is one that should be carefully assessed by all the countries of the region. The United States has decided—according to its secretary of defense—to achieve three objectives: to bring over the most modern weapons for its regional friends; to unite its allies in the region; to establish a real cooperation council, and to establish the presence of a modern, permanent, U.S. power in the Persian Gulf. These are very important remarks. These are hegemonistic, interventionist remarks that cannot be accepted by any honorable Muslim. No one can tolerate these remarks. There is, however, another meaning to these remarks. It means that the United States is declaring: Iran is a permanent fact. Iran's revolution is permanent.

This means that the Islamic revolution, the Islamic movement, is not a temporary movement, so that the United States would think that it would bring two fleets from two places. They have reached the conclusion that this movement is strong, established, and permanent. While this action of the United States is extremely abominable and wrong and contravenes all international principles and regulations, peace, and security, it also contains a clear message within for those who know and understand, for those who understand that the Americans have realized that the Islamic revolution cannot be destroyed. The Islamic Republic of Iran will remain. It is a lasting government. The Americans,

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therefore, say: We must have a permanent fleet in the Persian Gulf.

They clearly pronounce fundamentalism as a threat. That is why the world has taken a stand against and is angry with Iran. Even if the Islamic Republic of Iran had no connection and nothing to do with those movements, the existence of Iran—this movement and this system—is a guiding light and pathfinder. They are angry because this system exists, that it is strong. [passage omitted]

As you can see, the stances that the United States adopts today—what it says and the decisions it makes—are totally unbalanced. They show that they are confronting the Islamic revolution and the Islamic movement angrily and stubbornly. U.S. recent decisions conform to no logic. The disgrace the United States suffered in the recent incident was a fatal blow, when the Americans invited the world to follow and no one in the world paid them any attention. No one did. Everybody made fun of them. Could you have believed that the first country in Europe to refuse the U.S. request would be Britain? Who could have believed it? We could not believe it either. We knew that, in Europe, France and Germany would refuse them. The British, however, took a stance before everyone else. This shows how absurd, vain, and irrelevant that decision was.

We, therefore, see that the first issue the world is standing against today—in the name of combating fundamentalism—is the first goal that the Islamic Republic of Iran has pursued. The second goal is that we must rebuild Iran. [passage omitted]

Of course, our conditions are not normal. The government has faced, and faces, three major difficulties. First is the remnants of the previous regime. [passage omitted]

When I talk about the economic sector, it is culture that should today come to our assistance. When I say that we should solve our economic problems, I mean that the culture of Ashura should come to our assistance. We have to turn people into self-sacrificing individuals and not into hoarders. You must not think that only shopkeepers and warehouse owners are hoarders. I, too, am a hoarder. Go and search the houses. Go into the streets and open the doors of a few houses and see for yourselves how many goods we are all hoarding. The day when there is a problem in our economy because of what some corrupt persons have done, we ourselves extend this corruption by rushing to the shops. It is not like this in Europe. The year when there was a shortage of sugar in Britain, the government urged people to buy less sugar and they obeyed. Sugar was left on the shelves.

We need a cultural change. We should benefit from Ashura, which has one chief lesson to teach. That is that ideology should be preferred to everything else. Does not Ashura teach us that materialistic life should be sacrificed for the sake of holy aspirations? Ashura has no message other than this. We should come to each others' assistance. We should not say: It is the state that is responsible. Dear brother, we should all hold each others' hands. We are able to build Iran. Did we not make progress during the first plan? Are not all these dams the objects of our society's pride? What country in the world can inaugurate five big dams in one year? You may retort: Look sir, we do not want dams. We want cheap cooking oil. This is what you are saying now. What I am telling you is that no one would be saying this if they found themselves without any drinking water in a city, let alone no water for irrigation. It is then that we realize the vital role of dams in our lives. Do you remember when, during 1367 [1988-89] and beginning of 1368 [1989-90], there were days when we did not have any electricity for up to 10 hours. People would then say: Look, we do not want any cooking oil. We do not want any ration coupons. Go and fix our electricity. Hospitals are being affected by power cuts, and so forth. Well, the government came and attended to these essential tasks. It fixed the electricity, the roads, communications, education, welfare, and higher education. Really, if we were to look at statistics in the production sector alone, look at agriculture, which is ahead of our first program. So too is communications. Culture and education are proceeding in accordance to the program, and so is health. So, all this has not been mere ambition.

I will tell you that one of our problems today is the influence of the past, including the culture of Taqut [one of the idols mentioned in the Koran and derogatory reference to last regime]. We are revolutionaries today, a revolutionary country. Unfortunately, the Taqut culture still dominates our minds in many respects. We have to break this, and this is what Ashura stands for. We must have a revolutionary culture in our lives and do away with the other.

The second problem that has faced the government has been the impact of the war. You should not think that this is a simple matter. It was eight years of imposed war, the destruction of five provinces and all those economic resources, and all those missile attacks against cities. The reconstruction of the country is not an easy task. [broadcast of speech interrupted by announcement for noon prayers]

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Memo of Understanding Signed With North Korea

LD0106180795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A memorandum of understanding on cooperation was signed at the second round of talks between the foreign ministers of our country and North Korea in Tehran today.

In the memorandum the two sides expressed agreement regarding the continuation of efforts to expand friendly ties and strengthen cooperation in foreign relations based on reciprocal interests; and they agreed on the goals of the Nonaligned Movement and the need to strengthen world peace. They also stressed the need for close cooperation in international organizations and gatherings.

Vice President's Visit to Moldova Reported

NC3005101095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks between First Vice President Hasan Habibi and the Moldovan prime minister was held yesterday at the center of the Republic. Our special correspondent reports on the contents of these talks:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] During this round of talks which took place in the presence of our ministers of agriculture, roads and transport, and commerce, and the Moldovan ministers of economic affairs, education and training, agriculture, and other high-level officials of the two countries, bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, international transportation, banking, waiving of additional taxes, customs, science and culture, transport, and boosting of reciprocal investment were assessed.

The two sides agreed to the establishment of four committees: one for commerce, oil, banking, and customs levies; a committee for transport and industry; a committee for agriculture, science and industry; and a committee for coordination in political issues.

In this round of talks, First Vice President Habibi expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome to the Iranian delegation. He described the agreements reached in Tehran and the assessment of new agreements as an indication of the broadening of cooperation and a multilateral expansion of mutual relations and said: In addition to the issues propounded regarding an exchange of experience, there should be close cooperation, especially in the field of certain research and industrial issues which are being studied and researched in Moldovan universities. [end recording]

Habibi 'Totally Satisfied' After Visit

LD3105194195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] First Vice President Habibi, who travelled to Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Moldova, returned this afternoon to Tehran after talks with senior officials of these countries, which resulted in the signing of several agreements on bilateral cooperation. Before leaving Moldova, Mr. Habibi met and conferred with that country's president. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] At the meeting, which was also attended by our country's ministers for agriculture, transport, and commerce, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said his country was fully prepared to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed Moldova's national resolve to carry out democratic reforms. [passage omitted] He added: Moldova's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys a special status and we place a lot of value on the visits and meetings of officials between the two countries and on widening bilateral relations. We are also totally satisfied with the agreements achieved.

Mr. Habibi, on his part, said he was pleased about the progress made in relations between the two countries during a short space of time. He added that the agreements achieved demonstrated the resolve and political will of the two countries to increase their relations. He pointed to the growing relations between Iran and the newly independent countries of former Soviet Union and hoped that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Moldova would consolidate their political and economic relations in the same way that they have moved forward towards progress. [passage omitted]

Dairy Plant To Open in Tehran

95LA0227M Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Apr 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The factory to produce pasteurized milk and other products in Tehran will reach operation by the end of Bahman this year [19 February 1996] through the Agricultural Organization of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers.**

According to a report by RESALAT's economic correspondent, Engineer Hoseyn Ayatollahzadeh, general manager of the Agricultural Organization of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers, made this announcement at a gathering of the managers of this

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organization and announced the production capacity of this factory to be 100 tons per day.

He also mentioned the project for the production of pasteurized milk and dairy products in Yasuj and the projects for dairy products and fruit juice in Ilam, the province of Lorestan, and Gachsaran to be among the future projects of the organization.

Pointing out that the foreign currency revenues of the Agricultural Organization of the Foundation from the export of concentrates last year was 27 million German marks, he said: By the end of last year, the foreign currency obtained from exporting various foodstuffs and processed products of the companies under the control of this organization amounted to $10 million.

Increase in Wheat Production Reported

95LA0227F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Ilam, IRNA—The deputy minister of agriculture for farming affairs said: By making use of resources and implementing the central wheat plan, the level of production of this product will increase from 7.5 million tons to 11 million tons.**

Engineer Shahri'atmadar, who had traveled to the province of Ilam to study the water and soil projects, said on Thursday: In order to procure the raw materials for domestic oil factories, in the Second Plan some of the arable lands in the west of the country, including those in the province of Ilam, will be cultivated with oil seeds.

Mazandaran Province Mineral Exports Increase

95LA0237E Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari, Mazandaran Province (IRNA)—Some 20,000 tons of minerals, comprising marmarit, lead, and coal, worth Rls.3.8 billion [rials], were exported to Turkey, India, and Turkmenistan from this northern province of Iran, last year, said a local official Thursday.

Mineral exports from the province last year showed an increase of 25 percent compared to previous year, added the official.

At present some 104 mining cooperatives, public, and private companies are exploiting the provincial mines.

Border Markets Expand Trade, Create Jobs

95LA0237D Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Province (IRNA)—The draft of a bill has been presented to the cabinet for ratification of an amendment on common border markets, Governor of this northwestern provincial capital, 'Ali Yari, announced here Thursday [27 April].

Yari expressed optimism over ratification of the article of association of border markets, saying that the amendment would facilitate border transactions.

He added that the article of association has been proposed by border provinces and compiled with respect to commercial facilities of Iranian provinces.

The official assessed as "very successful and helpful" function of the border common markets over the past couple of years in creating jobs and earning income for border dwellers as well as preventing smuggling of goods.

Moreover, he added, border dwellers have become familiar with international commercial regulations, making a sudden change in the image of border regions.

Nearly 1,600 border dwellers earn up to $15 million annually through engagement in trade and exchange of goods at the West Azarbaijan border markets of 'Sarisu' at Maku, 'Razi' at Khoy, 'Sarvi' at Orumiyeh and 'Sanambulaghi' at Pol-Dasht.

Imposition of certain customs regulations on exchange of goods at the markets last year, led to a recession in the transactions.

Radial Tires Manufactured Domestically

95LA0237C Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 May 95 p 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—"With the help of top experts and engineers, Iran has attained the technology of producing radial ties, using black carbon-220," announced the managing director of Pars Industrial Carbon Company, 'Ali Akbar Shekarian [name as received], at a special interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

"Pars Industrial Carbon Company has been able to produce a special black carbon, grade 220, essential in the manufacture of radial tires," said Shekarian.

He indicated that the international market price of black carbon-220 is $500 per ton. He said that Iran would be able to save a sizeable amount of foreign currency, as this essential raw material can now be produced

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domestically. While Iran has been importing radial ties, it now has the capability of exporting them.

The managing director added that this technology was previously monopolized by the industrial nations. With this production capability, Iran has become self-sufficient, producing over 200 tons of the raw material, in compliance with international and ASTM [American Society for Testing and Materials] U.S. standards.

He estimated that Iran has the capacity of producing over 9,000 tons of tire rubber per year, depending on market demand.

Shekarian also said that the company will be able to supply the necessary raw materials to the tire-producing sector, while able to supply international markets with different grades of the black carbon.

"Pars Industrial Carbon Company, situated in the district of Saveh, 130 kilometers south of Tehran, has been given a patent licence by Croatia to produce the raw material," Shekarian said.

The managing director also said that the company has the production capacity of black carbon in grades ranging from 330, 339, 550 to 660, with of 15,000 tons annually. [sentence as received]

"It will cost Iran 30 billion rials to set up the industry," Shekarian said. "$35 million have already been allocated."

The managing director said he hoped to transform the industry into pigment production in the near future.

The company shares belong to Bank Melli, the National Iranian Oil Company, and the Organization of Social Welfare.

Pakistan

Reportage, Commentary on Consultative Group Meeting

Spokesman Views Meeting

BK0206155995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States has assured that it will neither sell arms to India nor transfer high technology to it that might disrupt the conventional balance of power in the South Asian region. The assurance came in the context of the U.S. policy of even-handedness in the region and keeping in view the fact that Pakistan continues to be subjected to sanctions under the Pressler Amendment that bars economic assistance and military sales. This was stated by a Pakistani spokesman while briefing newsmen in Washington today at the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group.

The spokesman said that the United States attaches importance to Pakistan's apprehensions in the backdrop of India's military buildup and escalation of tension in Kashmir and it concurs on Pakistan's legitimate security needs. He said that the U.S. Administration shared Pakistan's concern about India's insistence of pursuing its missile program and took note of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's statement in this regard.

A joint press release issued after the meeting of the U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group gave a resume of the U.S. Administration's ongoing efforts to encourage a broad-based congressional consensus on the need to revise the Pressler Amendment to allow economic and technical assistance, military training, and other forms of military cooperation with Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Daily Outlines Significance of Meeting

BK0206095695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A propitious begininng"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 13-member Pakistani delegation, headed by Defence Secretary Salim Abbas Jilani, is in the United States for a two-day meeting of the Pak-US Consultative Group (CG). Assistant Defence Secretary Joseph Nye is leading the US team. Both sides include senior defence, armed services, defence production and foreign office officials. The group would cover important topics including an overview of the security environment in South Asia, Pak-US security relations in the post-Cold War era, peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Haiti, joint exercises, military training and outstanding defence-related issues between Pakistan and the United States.

The Pak-US Consultative Group was constituted in 1984 following the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. It met 10 times before it was unofficially abandoned in 1990 following the invocation of the Pressler sanctions against Pakistan. It was revived in January this year when US Defence Secretary William Perry visited Pakistan at the head of a 40-member high level delegation. The present meeting in Washington, the first after the group's revival, is being held in an improved atmosphere following Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's April visit to the United States. Both sides are keen to promote security relations which have remained frozen due to the application of the Pressler Amendment which is now being viewed as discriminatory by more and more important people in the United States in the light of the realisation that its punitive measures have

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not borne fruit. There have been vigorous efforts from diverse quarters in the United States to find a way out of the political, diplomatic and economic impasse stemming from the invocation of this country-specific law. The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee has already voted to ease sanctions against Pakistan under the Pressler law. The current meeting of the CG has a symbolic significance, as it practically marks the beginning of the roll-back of the Pressler ban. The CG provides a formal forum where military leadership of the two countries would be able to discuss matters of mutual interest. Pakistan has taken up the issue of supply of military equipment at various levels, including the US Administration and the Congress, but the CG is also an appropriate forum where the matter can be taken up. From Pakistan side the stress would be on the supply of F-16s for which a hefty amount has been paid. Since the threat to the security environment is also to be discussed by the CG, Pakistan would evidently bring into focus India's aggressive programme of development and deployment of ballistic missiles and the escalating tensions over brute use of force by India in the Occupied Kashmir. The revival of the CG has given a new lease of life to Pak-US relations and it is hoped these would prove productive for Pakistan.

Article Views Extradition of Drug Offender to U.S.

BK0306111995 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 3 Jun 95 pp 8, 6

[Article by Nayyar Waheed Rawat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — Tariq Butt, who is wanted by the United States for his involvement in the smuggling of narcotics, was handed over to the FBI team that arrived from the United States in a special plane at Islamabad airport on the night between Thursday [1 June] and Friday. According to sources, Tariq Butt, hailing from Lahore, was swiftly taken out from Adiala prison at about 0300 on Friday, put in three vehicles [as published] of the Federal Investigation Agency [FIA] that had black tinted glass, and was taken to Islamabad airport where he was handed over to a three-member FBI team, who alighted on the runway from a U.S. military aircraft. The sources say the FIA vehicles waited at the airport until the U.S. aircraft landed at the runway and the special aircraft left for Karachi after remaining on the runway for half an hour and refueling. From Karachi, the aircraft left for the United States on Friday. It may be recalled that along with Anwar Khattak and Iqbal Beg, Tariq Butt's case was being heard at ADCG [expansion not known] court in Islamabad for about one and a half years after which it was decided to extradite the three to the United States. Anwar Khattak, Iqbal Beg, and Tariq Butt filed an appeal at the Supreme Court for a revision of this decision. However, Anwar Khattak and Iqbal Beg have already been extradited to the United States and Tariq Butt's appeal was also turned down by the Supreme Court. Speaking to KHBRAIN during a hearing at the ADCG court, Tariq Butt said that he was entangled in the problem through an anonymous letter from an unknown person. He said his conscience is clear and he is innocent. However, if he does not get justice from a Pakistani court, he would definitely succeed in the court of God. On the decision to extradite him to the United States, Tariq Butt said: In those days, when a king traveled to any country, he used to give horses or animals to the king of that country. "Our" people want to hand over us to please the U.S. Government.

Kashmir Fund Established for 'Freedom Fighters'

BK3105055895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has decided to set up fund to be known as the Kashmir Fund for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri refugees and freedom fighters. All branches of State Bank and scheduled banks and treasuries have been authorized to collect the donations. The fund may receive donations from both domestic and international donors. Contributions from abroad will be received at all branches of nationalized commercial banks, where such branches exist. In other foreign countries, contributions will be received at Pakistan missions. The donations will be exempted from income tax and tithes.

Reportage on Clashes, Militant Movement in Karachi

'Rangers,' 'Hooded Raiders' Battle

BK0206163395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Karachi, June 2, (AFP) — At least seven people were killed in gunbattles between security forces and masked armed men and in incidents of sniper fire in different parts of Karachi, officials and hospital sources said Friday [2 June].

A Saudi student, identified as Mohammad Shoaib, was shot dead by unidentifed gunmen in the city's south, while snipers killed two people in eastern Karachi, police said.

Firefights occurred between paramilitary rangers and hooded raiders in central and western districts, resulting in the deaths of four people and injuries to several, officials said.

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All the dead were cilvians, a security official said, describing the attackers as "urban guerillas."

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial centre has for long been plagued by violence which has claimed more than 600 lives this year.

Residents said the masked men were armed with Kalashanikov rifles, pistols and other automatic weapons.

The rangers and police intensified patrolling in the tense areas of the city.

In one area, a resident said, armed men took positions on rooftops and street corners.

"We have been besieged. There is intense firing going on," a houewife said by telephone.

At least eight vehicles were burnt in the trouble areas, fire brigade sources said.

The attacks followed two bomb blasts and rocket attacks Thursday on two police stations in which two police were seriously hurt, amid mounting tension between the government and ethnic Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). [passage omitted]

Minister: 'Foreign Hand' Involved

BK0306144795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law and justice, Professor N.D. Khan, says the government is committed and determined to restore complete peace in Karachi with the cooperation of the people. In an interview with PPI in Islamabad, he said people involved in criminal cases will not be released under any political pressure. He also said the Rangers will remain in Sindh until the complete return of peace and security in Karachi. Referring to the involvement of foreign hand in terrorist activities in Sindh, Mr. N.D. Khan said our enemy wants to tarnish the image of Pakistan on international level. The terrorist activities are aimed at diverting the world attention from Indian oppression in occupied Kashmir.

Police Raid Movement's Headquarters

BK0306093995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Night long raids by the Rangers-Police combine at the Mohajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] headquarters, Nine-Zero, and eight other places led to widespread violence in the strife-torn Karachi Friday [2 June] which left 13 dead and several injured, over two dozen vehicles, including three fire tenders, and a bank branch were set ablaze.

Among the dead were a mother and her two daughters, an MQM (A) activist and, two labourers. Violence erupted Friday morning was continuing till late night in district Central with vehicular traffic suspended and smouldering torched vehicles.

In a late night development, gunmen broke into a New Karachi house and gunned down a woman and her two daughters, rockets were fired at Taimuria police station, Sharifabad police station and Pole Meter Transformers in North Nazimabad with no casualty. However, the rocket launched at Shrifabad police station hit a private clinic and caused damage to its structure. The clinic was closed at the time of incident.

[Words indistinct] into a house and sprayed Anis Bano and her three daughters with bullets. One of the girls was stated to be in critical condition while the other three died on the spot.

Anis Bano's husband Yaqoob and son Shahid were gunned down in their Surjani Town state agency last year. Her son Wahid was arrested by Rangers Thursday night for being an MQM activist. Her other son Zahid was an activist of Sipah-e-Sahabad.

Acting on a tip-off that MQM leaders would meet at certain places to plan subversive activities, rangers and police raided the party headquarters and eight other places. No one could be arrested in the raids, according to PRO [public relations officer] to Rangers Major Farooqi.

The Rangers PRO said some printed material and video cassette were seized from the Nine-Zero which includes some objectionable pamphlets.

According to MQM leaders, at about 3:40 am two armoured cars, a dozen Rangers vehicle and five police mobile vans surrounded the Nine-Zero.

They alleged the raiding personnel intruded the house without any search warrant, misbehaved with the female workers, ransacked the party headquarters and took away cash and other office equipment. The party leaders further alleged that police again raided the Nine-Zero on Friday afternoon and ransacked the office. The Rangers PRO, however, denied, the allegations.

As the news of raid at the MQM headquarters spread, youths came out on the streets in most of the district central localities and set bonfires which led to suspension of vehicular traffic. On the other hand gunmen resorted to firing from moving vehicles and roof tops in Gulbahar, Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad and Pak colony. The gunmen traded fire with the law enforcing agencies as well as went on firing spree just to create harassment.

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Amidst such firing incidents, Raja Iftikhar Ahmed, 24, fell victim to snipers bullets in Gulbahar while he was going to say Friday Prayers. In the same area, Syed Nissar, 22, also lost life.

Khursheed Ahmed, 24 and an activist of MQM (A) activist was kidnapped by masked men and later dumped his bullet riddled body in Liaquatabad.

An MQM spokesman held Rangers and police responsible for the killing. The party press release said Khursheed went out to buy newspapers when he was kidnapped. He was tortured and shot dead at some unknown place and latter his body was dumped in Liaquatabad.

In the same area, 16-year-old Ashiq Ali, received bullet injuries, when a stray bullet pierced his head. Area people took him to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital in critical condition, however, he succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Trouble in the colony was started on Thursday night when an MQM (Haqiqi) activist Tahir and a PPP worker Shamim Haider were gunmen down by masked men. Later, shop of MQM (A) MPA Zulfiqar Haider was set on fire.

Angry mob set ablaze three buses in Gulbhar and four minibuses, two private vehicles, two trucks and three fire tenders in FB. Area, a private bus, three cars and twos minibus in Kerangi, a private car in Gulburg and Habib-Bank Branch in Nazimabad.

Movement Said Planning Assassinations

BK0406094795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Sami Ullah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 3 — The Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM-Altaf) has reportedly assigned the job of killing important opponent political leaders and bomb blasts in various big cities to two of its militant organisations "Mohajirs Rights Front (MRF)" and Mohajir Liberation Organisation (MLO). MRF is responsible for bomb blasts whereas MLO is to plan killing of the politicians.

According to a report, prepared by a sensitive agency submitted recently to the Prime Minister, a large number of high officials including a few journalists are also members of MLO. These officials, according to the report, are supposed to provide details and all required information about the movement of VIPs to their organisation to materialise the killing plans.

Well placed officials in the federal capital told this correspondent that earlier only Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was on this list but in the last week of May after President Farooq Ahmad Leghari gave an anti-MQM statement, his name was also included in the target list. A number of [words indistinct] Council leaders are also expected targets of the terrorists.

The report further states that on May 26 about 100 separate corner meetings of MRF and MLO were held throughout the country to finalise the modalities of their operations. In rural areas of the Punjab, the MLO has plans to execute their operations with the connivance of Maulana Azam Tariq led Sipha-e-Sahaba of Pakistan (SSP).

The report further states that in Lahore pro-PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] militant student organisations are supporting the MLO operations. The recent attacks on police stations in Lahore were also joint ventures of MLO and pro-Nawaz Sharif student organisations, the report states.

According to high officials of a sensitive agency the ANP [Awami National Party] militant wing is helping MLO in getting ammunition from the tribal areas. The ANP also provides safe houses and shelters to those members of MLO who have been spotted by the law enforcing authorities and are anticipating to be arrested.

The officials said MRF which was responsible for bomb blasts had been asked to execute the plans through car bombs. An MRF member who was arrested by the authorities in Karachi reportedly told the investigating team that official places like Parliament buildings, court premises, airports and Railway stations were the priority targets.

He also reportedly confessed that during the days of Ashura a large-scale killing was planned by hurling bombs on the processions to start the sectarian clashes in at least three urban centres of the Punjab.

Though the security agencies have succeeded in getting a few details about the plans of these two militant organisations of MQM but the authorities are still believed to be unaware of where-abouts of most of its members.

Our Karachi Bureau adds: Security agencies seem to have unearthed a plot to murder politicians and about a dozen other VIPs in Karachi following clue from an arrested police officer that he had been involved in a conspiracy to finish off Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Those on the hit list have not been identified for obvious reasons but officials in the Sindh Home Department confirmed that the confession made in Islamabad by a Deputy Superintendent of Police [DSP] was important.

The DSP who was taken into custody from the sensitive central district of Karachi last month, was subjected to

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close scrutiny by intelligence bounds in the capital. He confessed being part of a design to murder the Prime Minister through rocket attacks.

The disclosures made by him, according to senior police officials here, were of paramount importance and may help uncover a much bigger conspiracy. He said be had links with the MQM, and had after tipped them off about raids on their hideouts, places of living, which helped them escape from the scene.

The DSP was taken into custody along with a Deputy Commissioner of the area.

The Prime Minister had said two days ago that MQM had planned to murder her, the Sindh Chief Minister and certain cabinet ministers.

The DSP was quoted as saying that rocket launchers were smuggled into Pakistan from India through the desert Tharparkar areas and via Badin. Some weapons also were routed to Karachi from Afghanistan via Peshawar. Hence the arrest of MQM Senator Zahid Akhtar.

Movement Leaders Said Smuggling Arms

BK0406161295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar has said that the government has irrefutable evidence that most of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group [MQM-A] leaders are involved in purchasing arms and ammunition from tribal areas and sending them into Karachi and other areas of Sindh. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said the North-West Frontier Province government has caught certain persons belonging to the MQM-A while smuggling arms from tribal areas into Karachi.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and seven were injured in various incidents of violence in Karachi today. Troublemakers set seven vehicles on fire. Police arrested six troublemakers who were trying to set fire to a taxi.

In Hyderabad, troublemakers set three vehicles on fire today. Some business centers of the city, except Senabad, Qasimabad, and the Sadar areas, remained closed and traffic was thin on the roads today.

According to a press note issued by the district magistrate of Mirpur Khas, troublemakers set fire to two jeeps on the occasion of a strike called by the MQM-Altaf group today.

Sri Lanka

Reportage, Reaction to Explosion of Red Cross Ship

LTTE Guerrillas Blamed

BK0406130095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 4 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday [4 June] blew up a passenger and cargo ship operated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in northern Sri Lanka, official sources said.

There were no reports of survivors.

The ship was entering the government-held port of Kankesanthurai when it hit a sea mine planted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the sources said.

Rescue operation Launched; One Missing

BK0406150695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 4 (AFP) — A cargo and passenger vessel chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was blown up in northern Sri Lanka, leaving one Indonesian crewmember missing, official sources said.

The 12-member crew ship, the Sea Dancer, was leaving the government-held port of Kankesanthurai when it hit a sea mine planted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) just one mile from the port, a military official said.

"We are certain that the LTTE planted the mine to target one of our navy boats. The navy mounted a reasuce operation to rescue the crew. But one crewman is still missing," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

The ICRC-chartered Sea Dancer operated by an Indonesian crew had completed its mandatory security checks at the Kankesanthurai port and was leaving for the northeastern port of Trincomalee when it was hit, Munasinghe said.

He said two sailors woanded in the blast were rescued by the navy and taken to the nearby military complex of Palaly for treatment. There was no word from the ICRC office in Colombo.

The vessel was operating under the protection of the ICRC. It had arrived at the navy-controlled Kankesanthurai port from the LTTE-held pier of Point Pedro, the northernmost point of Sri Lanka.

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Shortly after the mine attack, the navy launched a major operation to look for more mines outside the Kankesanthurai port which was infiltrated by the LTTE in August to blast a 4,000-tonne navy ship berthed there in August.

The LTTE was also accused of sinking another cargo vessel off the island's embattled northeastern coast while it carried food supplies to army troops late last year.

The Tigers are known to have developed an effective naval capability with an elite suicide squad known for a series of devastating attacks against navy gunboats and supply craft since September last year.

Late last month, the ICRC took the unusual step of condemning the massacre of 42 Sinhala civilians in Sri lanka's northeast but stopped short of naming the LTTE. The military had accused the LTTE of killing the civilians.

Red Cross Suspends Operations

BK0506053195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0518 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 5 (AFP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday [5 June] it was suspending the transportation of food supplies and patients in war-torn northern Sri Lanka following the blowing up of one its vessels.

"For the moment we have suspended this operation in the north. We will decide whether to continue after discussing with our headquarters in Geneva in the next few days," ICRC field co-ordinator, Dominique Henri said.

The military said the cargo and passenger ship, Sea Dancer, was blown up Sunday when it hit a sea mine planted by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) near the government-held port of Kankesanthurai.

However, Henri said the ICRC was only certain that there was "an explosion" but was not able to say the kind of device that triggered the blast or who planted it.

The ship was carrying supplies from Colombo to the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula when it was blown up.

The Sea Dancer and another vessel were chartered by the ICRC to carry supplies to Jaffna and bring back sick people from the embattled region for further treatment in Colombo. It made two trips a a week, officials said.

A member of the 12-man Indonesian crew went missing and was feared dead, officials said. The navy continued their search Monday.

The blast came amid escalating violence in the northeast, where the LTTE wants to set-up a separate state for the country's two million minority Tamils.

The ICRC was "studying the best possible ways" of evacuating 11 persons rescued by the navy and taken to the main Palaly military base in the Jaffna peninsula, Henri said.

"Once we have brought the Indonesian crew to Colombo, we will make arrangements for them to be sent to Indonesia," Henri said.

Flights to and from Palaly have been restricted following LTTE missile attacks that shot down two airforce aircraft, killing nearly 100 people over Palaly in April.

Shortly after the mine attack, the navy launched a major operation to look for more mines outside the Kankesanthurai port. The LTTE has been blamed for similar attacks on cargo vessels in the north.

Army Surrounds LTTE 'Terrorists' in Trincomalee

BK0406112095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three hundred to four hundred LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were reported surrounded by Army troops yesterday at Tiriyay in the Trincomalee District. All avenues of escape are being sealed. Some terrorists had tried to escape by sea, but this escape route has been also cut off. A military spokesman said the security forces have launched successful offensive against the LTTE in all areas in the northern and eastern provinces.

'Sources' Offer To Supply Arms To Counter LTTE

BK0306131395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar told a group of visiting foreign correspondents yesterday that unlike in the past Sri Lanka was enjoying tremendous international goodwill and support in dealing with the new offensive launched by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Kadirgamar observed that the genuine efforts made by the People's [Alliance] government to resolve the ethnic problem and the much improved human rights record of the country have been responsible for this turnaround. Questioned by journalists on possible military assistance to the Sri Lankan Government from foreign governments, the minister said what we required was not aid but for the Sri Lankan Government to be able to purchase its military needs. This had until recently been blocked

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by some governments. Such obstacles have now been eased and several sources hitherto unavailable to Sri Lanka have opened up. The minister declined to name the countries which had offered to help in this manner, saying it would be unfair for them.

Curfew Imposed in South Due to Ethnic Tension

BK0306085895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 3 (AFP) — Heavily armed troops were deployed Saturday [3 June] to enforce an indefinite curfew in southern Sri Lanka where Sinhalese mobs torched Tamil-owned shops amid mounting ethnic tension, local officials said.

Some 1,000 people attacked Tamil shops at the Galle town, 72 miles (112 kilometers) south of here, late Friday despite tight security ahead of Saturday's funeral of a Buddhist monk killed by Tamil rebels, officials said.

"We opened fire in the air and also used a lot of tear gas to break up the mobs. They were targeting shops owned by Tamils who control the wholesale business here," a police officer said by telephone.

He said at least 20 shops — 15 Tamil, three Muslim and two Sinhala — were gutted and police clamped the indefinite curfew on the town and its immediate suburbs to prevent further attacks.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the arson attacks which happened despite the presence of some security personnel at the Galle town, the capital of the Sinhala majority Southern Province.

"We have now got the army and the navy to patrol the streets. The situation is now under control and heavy rains in the morning also helped dampen the spirits of many would-be mobs," the officer said.

He said the arson attacks appeared to have been orchestrated by rival business interests at the Galle Market where the wholesale trade is controlled by minority Tamils.

The town had been decorated with saffron coloured flags as a sign of respect for a Buddhist monk, Kithalagama Seelalankara, who was gunned down by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) last week.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said instructions had been issued to the security forces and police to deal firmly with potential trouble makers and ensure that the violence in Galle did not spread to other areas.

"We will not tolerate this type of nonsense. Any backlash against the Tamils is exactly what the LTTE wants because that will mean withdrawing troops from the war zone to maintain peace elsewhere," Munasinghe said.

In July 1983, widespread ethnic riots broke out in Sri Lanka, leaving at least 400 minority Tamils dead at the hands of majority Sinhalese mobs allegedly instigated by sections of the then Colombo government.

In the island's north central Anuradhapura region, steel-helmeted soldiers and police were deployed Saturday to prevent any communal violence. There are a few Tamil-owned shops at Anuradhapura, reports from the area said.

Police and security forces throughout the country had been alerted to prevent inter-communal violence ahead of the monk's funeral Saturday in the eastern Dimbulaga village.

In the eastern province itself, there were no reports of violence but tight security was maintained ahead of the cremation according to Buddhist rites after sunset Saturday, police deputy Inspector- General Seneviratne Banda said.

"We have enforced very tight security and given special attention to Tamil villages. My main concern is the communal elements. It needs only a spark to set off a fire," Banda said.

He said some 700 additional soldiers were being deployed to reinforce the 1,000-strong police force protecting the thousands of mourners pouring into the area where Tamil Tigers guerrillas are known to roam freely.

President Vows 'Tough Action'

BK0306133695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 3 Jun 95

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Colombo, June 3 (AFP) — Armed troops were deployed Saturday [3 June] to enforce an indefinite curfew in southern Sri Lanka where Sinhalese mobs torched Tamil-owned shops amid mounting ethnic tension, local officials said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga Saturday vowed tough action after the arson attacks in the southern port town of Galle. Fierce fighting also raged on in the island's northeastern districts.

Speaking on state radio, Kumaratunga said the authorities had been ordered to "take all measures necessary" to contain unrest in Galle, the capital of the Sinhala heartland of the Southern Province. [passage omitted]

A Tamil legislator, Joseph Pararajasingam, urged the government to evacuate minority Tamils in the area to safer locations. [passage omitted]

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Canadian Foreign Affairs Ministry Official Visits

Official Arrives; To Study 'Crisis'

BK3105143095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first Canadian minister to visit Sri Lanka in 12 years arrived in Colombo today. A junior foreign minister and secretary of state for Asia and the Pacific, Raymond Chan, during his visit will see what his country can do to help in the northeast crisis.

A spokesman for the Canadian High Commission in Colombo told the SLBC that Minister Chan was coming on an information gathering visit to see what Canada could do to help reestablish peace in the country.

Mr. Chan was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, and Deputy Minister D.P. Wickremasinghe.

Discusses LTTE 'Hostilities'

BK0206000695 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0536 GMT 1 Jun 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 1 Jun: Raymond Chan, the secretary of state for Asia and Pacific of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, arrived in Sri Lanka on an official visit on 31st May. He will stay in Sri Lanka until 2nd June, 1995. He is accompanied by Mr. Terry Colfer, director for South Asia of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Shannon Deegan, executive assistant to the minister, states a press release issued by the Foreign Office in Colombo [on] Wednesday 31st May 1995.

Mr. Chan called on Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at the foreign ministry this morning. The Canadian minister stated that Canada was disturbed by the resumption of hostilities by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and wished to be briefed on the current political situation in Sri Lanka.

Foreign Minister Kadirgamar while welcoming the minister thanked the government of Canada for the understanding and encouraging statements made recently on the Sri Lanka situation. He also thanked Canada for sending a representative to serve as the chairman on one of the monitoring committees established under the cessation of hostilities agreement. The minister emphasized the government's commitment to pursue a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Raymond Chan reiterated the Canadian government's continued support for the stand taken by the government on pursuing a negotiated settlement to our ethnic problem. He stated that "we are pleased to see a government so open and receptive to minority problems."

The two ministers observed that Sri Lanka and Canada have enjoyed a close relationship based on the common membership in the Commonwealth and stressed on the need to continue with these links further through the promotion of bilateral relations with emphasis on the economic and trade sector. The visiting minister stated that Canada had an important stake in Sri Lanka's development and had given over U.S. dollars 800 million over the years.

The visiting Canadian minister also had discussion on matters of bilateral and internationaal concerns with his counterpart, D.P. Wickremasinghe, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other senior foreign ministry officials. The two sides reviewed bilateral, political, and economic relations. The Canadian minister explained that although budgetary restrictions had been introduced at CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency], the impact on Sri Lanka would be minimal.

The visiting minister spoke on overseas development assistance to Sri Lanka and observed that there is potential for investments in this region. He further stated that the two countries should move from a donor-recipient relationship to a stronger economic and trade relationship.

The two sides also reviewed other regional and international issues such as developments within SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the Indian Ocean community initiative, and reform of the UN.

Prior to the official talks, Raymond Chan and D.P. Wickremasinghe signed a letter of intent between the government of Canada and Sri Lanka to provide up to Canadian dollars one million to facilitate the activities of the Institute of Policy Studies at which Dr. Saman Kalegama, the director of the institute, was also present.

Associated with the talks at the foreign ministry were R.C.A. Vandergert, secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other senior officials of the foreign ministry. The visiting foreign minister was accompanied by Benno T. Pflanz, Canadian high commissioner, and officials of the Canadian Foreign Office and the Canadian High Commission in Colombo.

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